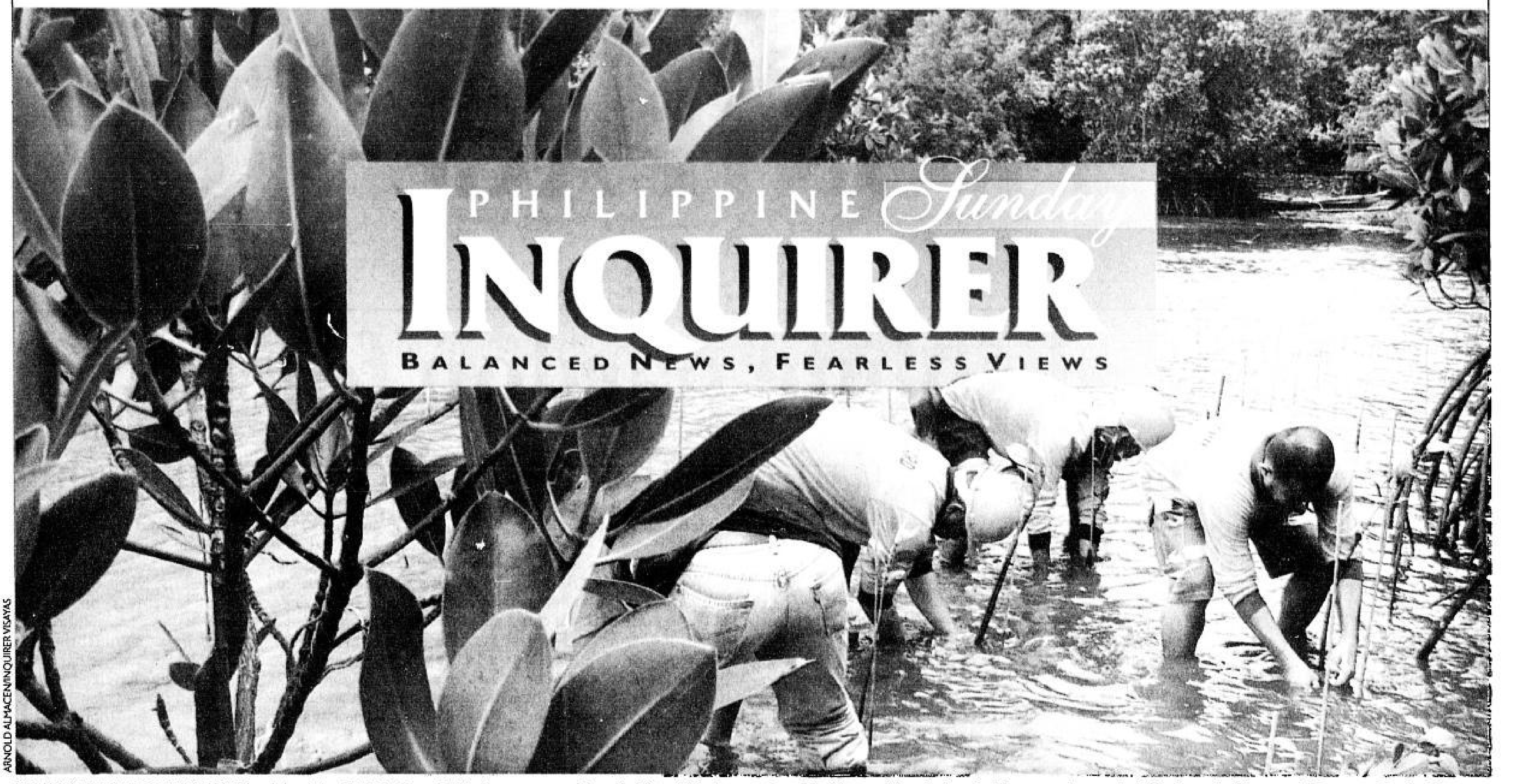
Sunday, September 23, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 287 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD has joined the **DENR**'s Green Philippines program, Trees for Life, which aims to plant 20 million seedlings in denuded forests and watersheds by the end of the year. In Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, the Coast Guard is into planting mangrove trees to revive the coastal ecosystem that was devastated by the oil spill that hit Guimaras, with Nueva Valencia one of the most heavily affected, in August 2006.

GMA suspends NBN deal

₱26.4-B cyber education project also shelved indefinitely

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE CONTROVERSIAL NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK (NBN) project that was awarded to China's ZTE Corp. has been ordered suspended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While the government signatory to the project was Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, it was Trade Secretary Peter Favila—who had earlier said he had nothing to do with the deal—who made the "major announcement" before noon yesterday.

Four days earlier, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, a son of the Speaker, had told a Senate inquiry that the President's husband had tried to bully him into backing off from the $329-million project.

"I just would like to share with you that the much-talked-about and much-maligned broadband project, upon the instruction of the President, has been suspended," Favila told the small group of reporters who made it to the hastily called press conference in the lobby of the Edsa Shangri-La hotel in Mandaluyong City.

He was accompanied by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, the acting justice secretary.

Asked how long the suspension would last, he said: "Indefinitely."

Favila said the President had also or-

GMA SUSPENDS/ A13

Senators to continue probe; graft issues remain

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SENATORS YESTERDAY GAVE NOTICE that they would continue the inquiry into the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project that has enmeshed President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza in an alleged corruption scandal.

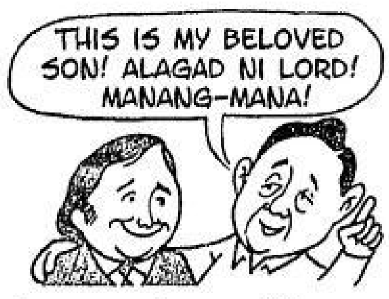
The senators found suspicious Malacañang's suspension of the deal with China's ZTE Corp., and insisted that the President should altogether cancel the contract signed by Mendoza in April on behalf of the Philippine government.

"For all intents and purposes, the ZTE contract is suspended because the Supreme Court has issued a restraining order in the implementation of the contract. The decision, therefore, should be to rescind the contract and not to merely suspend it," said Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

He criticized Malacañang for not addressing the lack of transparency in the transaction and the alleged kickbacks involved.

"Will this [suspension] mean that those who compromised transparency and those who did not follow the standard procedures in this transaction will be reprimanded? Or will this

SENATORS/ A4



THIS IS MY BELOVED SON! ALAGAD NI LORD! MANANG-MANA!

Joe on Joey: 'An agent of the Lord'

By Norman Bordadora

CRITICS MAY SCOFF AT JOSE "Joey" De Venecia III as the ex-drug addict who threw a monkey wrench into China's plan to help the Philippines put up a National Broadband Network (NBN).

But to his father, Speaker Jose De Venecia, Joey is an "agent of the Lord," following President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision yesterday to suspend indefinitely the $329-million NBN network deal

JOE ON JOEY/ A6

Soldiers turn air base into veggie farm

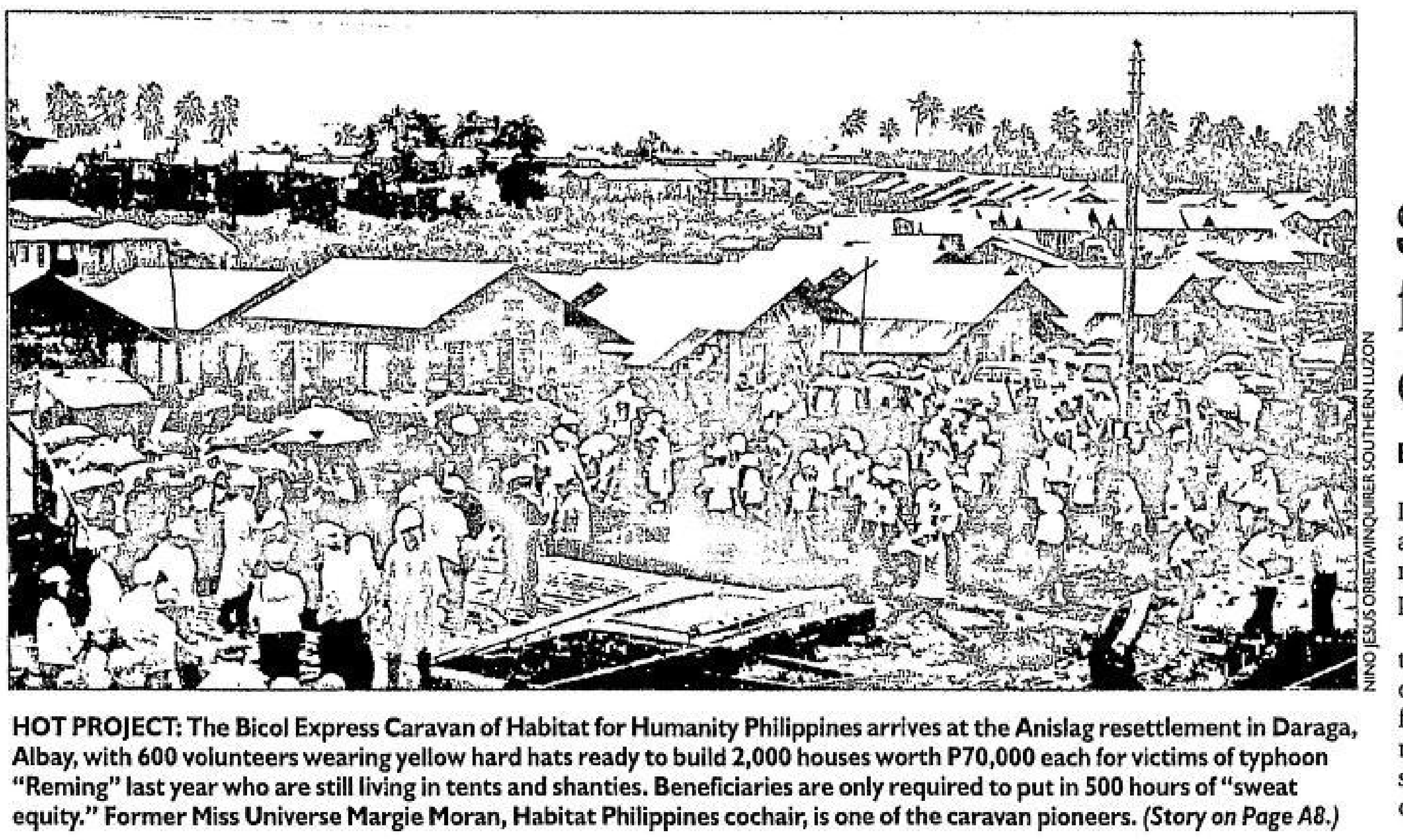
By Tarra Quismundo

LIPA, BATANGAS—AIRMEN TILLING the land, sowing seeds and watering crops are slowly becoming part of the rigid military routine at a Philippine Air Force base here.

Rows of sweet papaya, corn, bell pepper and tomato thrive under the bright sun and in the pure clean air of the 272-hectare Fernando Air Base, a sprawling military base where abundant idle land is slowly being turned into a vegetable garden.

The project is part of an organization-wide program to convert idle military land into productive use on orders of the Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

SOLDIERS / A4



NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

HOT PROJECT: The Bicol Express Caravan of Habitat for Humanity Philippines arrives at the Anislag resettlement in Daraga, Albay, with 600 volunteers wearing yellow hard hats ready to build 2,000 houses worth P70,000 each for victims of typhoon "Reming" last year who are still living in tents and shanties. Beneficiaries are only required to put in 500 hours of "sweat equity." Former Miss Universe Margie Moran, Habitat Philippines cochair, is one of the caravan pioneers. *(Story on Page A8.)*

School rises from the ashes of Pinatubo

By Fernando del Mundo

IMELDA MACASPAC KNEW SHE HAD a lot to do when she returned to her alma mater in 2002 to become its principal.

Pampanga High School (PHS) was then half-buried in lahar, swept there over the years during the rainy season from higher grounds covered with ash, mud and other pyroclastic materials spewed by Mount Pinatubo during its cataclysmic eruption in 1991.

Most of the 77 buildings and thatched huts where over 9,000 students held classes in 180 rooms were severely damaged and filthy.

There were only two toilets—unserviceable most of the time—on the campus sprawled over six hectares in downtown San Fernando, the Pampanga provincial capital. Students defecated everywhere, breeding swarms of flies and mosquitoes.

When the rains came, the school was waist-deep in water. The floods re-

SCHOOL/ A13

Tender loving hospice care in the comfort of home

By Volt Contreras

HUMAN RIGHTS THAT ARE WORTH dying for should also include the "rights of the dying" to spend their last days in comfort and minimal pain.

This is the conviction that drives hospice care volunteers Asuncion Kalalo, a lawyer, and Elisa Allado, a doctor, to set aside their Sunday mornings to visit the homes of the terminally ill in depressed areas south of Manila.

They raise funds and gather donations to provide patients with free morphine; lend them wheelchairs, oxygen tanks and nebulizers, and arrange ambulance services, among other things. They also provide psychological and family counseling, as well as prayers.

They are stepping up their campaign this week as the Philippines plays host to the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel from Sept. 27 to 29.

Early this month, for instance, the hospice volunteers paid a visit to "Lyn," 45, a single mother of two, to check on her supply of medication for her numbing headaches.

"They are like angels," Lyn, who

TENDER/ A6

JOB *Market*
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TOOTiNG HIS OWN HORN: Police officer, a PMAyer cum laude grad who solved 2 kidnap cases, plays '50s-'60s classics
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

AT HOME: Top creative minds of interior/fashion designers want to get inside your house
LIFESTYLE / F4

LESS THAN GENTLE JOURNEYS: 4 decades after her onscreen debut, eternal rebel Gina Pareño finally finds redemption, recognition
ENTERTAINMENT / G4

LOVE in a time of martial law
GLOBAL PINOY / A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

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GMA for absolute pardon for Erap

Vidal, Pardo said to be negotiating with Palace for convicted leader

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **CHILDREN INT'L,** Habitat build houses for Bicol typhoon victims /A8
- **POLICE TO LIST** barangay polls 'hot spots' /A7
- **SENATORS VOW** smooth sailing for cheap meds bill /A5

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS WILLING to grant an "absolute pardon" to convicted plunderer, deposed President Joseph Estrada, Malacañang said yesterday.

"Absolute means unconditional," said Sergio Apostol, the presidential legal adviser, dispelling speculation that there would be strings attached to the presidential pardon for Estrada, the first Philippine president to be convicted under the Anti-Plunder Law.

The Sandiganbayan antigraft court on Sept. 12 found Estrada guilty of plunder for collecting hundreds of millions of pesos from illegal gambling and insider trading.

Estrada was sentenced to life in prison but Apostol said the disgraced leader, who turned 70 in April, was now eligible for a pardon.

"We will not impose conditions," Apostol said, confirming that the issue could be resolved before Christmas and that the talks would be concluded soon.

Just the day before, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and other administration officials said that discussions on the grant of either a pardon or amnesty to Estrada were already in an "advanced stage" and that Estrada might be freed from his "rest house arrest" by Christmas without having served his sentence at all.

Explaining that absolute and unconditional pardons were synonymous, Apostol said no conditions whatsoever would be imposed on the convict being pardoned.

Apostol, who was a prosecutor in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in the Senate in 2001, explained that a conditional pardon would mean that Estrada would be granted parole, that is, a prisoner is temporarily released before the completion of a sentence on the promise of good behavior.

But he said President Arroyo had the authority to grant an absolute pardon.

Apostol said he did not know why Estrada was issuing mixed signals about a possible pardon.

The convicted former President had denied being in negotiations with the administration for the pardon. But if he were to accept the offer of a pardon, it must be an "unconditional" one which should definitely not include an admission of guilt, he had said.

However, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the other day that Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, the Cebu archbishop, was negotiating for the disgraced leader. He said Estrada's former trade secretary, Jose Pardo, was also part of the talks.

Puno told reporters Friday that he saw the "beginnings of an agreement" and that Estrada has said he would accept a pardon.

Apostol urged Estrada to forego appealing the Sandiganbayan's guilty verdict against him so the government "can set in motion" the process of pardoning him.

Estrada will only prolong the process if his lawyers seek judicial relief in both the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court, he said.

Elevating Estrada's appeal to the high court could take years to resolve, he said.

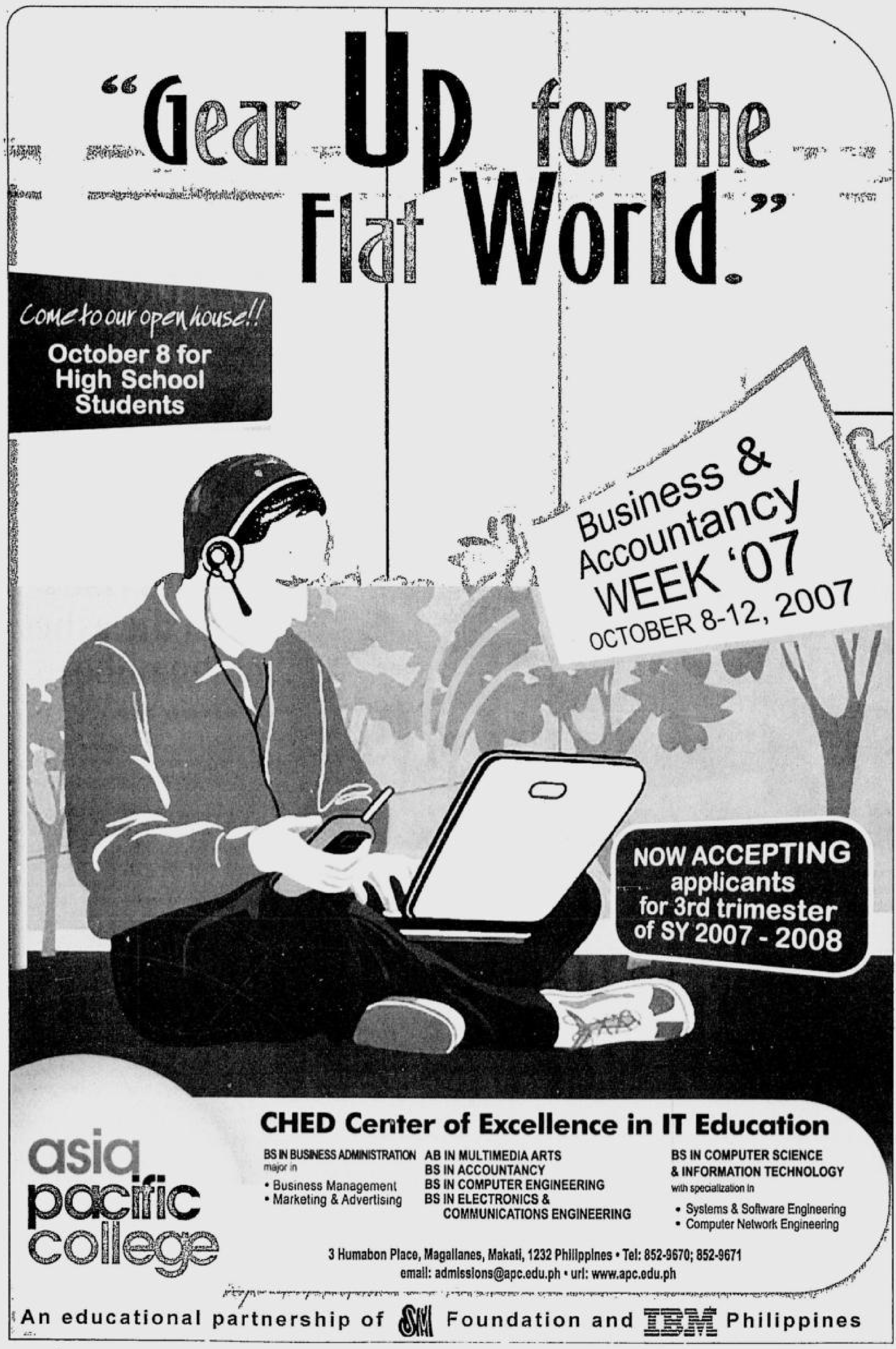
"So our appeal for him is to withdraw all his motions and allow the court's decision to become final and executory, then he would negotiate with the President. Then our President can start the process ... for him to avail of a pardon, but that remains in the hands of Erap if he agrees. If not, nothing will happen," Apostol said.

Malacañang has ruled out the idea of an amnesty for Estrada, saying that only political offenders were covered by an amnesty. Plunder is a criminal offense.

"We will have problems [if he opts for amnesty] because amnesty is for political offenders only and not for plunderers," said Apostol.

He explained that the amnesty proclamation issued recently by Ms Arroyo covered communist "groups and those who committed political offenses."

He said Estrada could claim that "I'm a communist," so he would be covered by the amnesty.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Doctors urge higher health care budget, since economy's up

By Beverly T. Natividad

DESPITE RECENT ECONOMIC gains, the government's budget for health care is still far from the international standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to a nongovernment organization of doctors.

The Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) has urged the government to prioritize health care for the poor by increasing the Department of Health's budget amid the backdrop of an improving economy.

In a statement yesterday, HEAD deputy secretary general Dr. Geneve Rivera said that while the proposed P15.762-billion DOH budget for 2008 was higher than its 2007 budget, it was still only 1.3 percent of the proposed P1.23-trillion national budget for next year.

The DOH budget in 2007 was 1.1 percent of the national budget, and 1.6 percent in 2006.

Rivera said HEAD was calling for a health budget closer to the WHO-recommended 5 percent of gross national product (GNP), particularly since the administration has been saying the economy is on the upswing.

"If the economy is really improving, then there is no reason not to go in this direction," Rivera said.

She said that, at the very least, the DOH budget should be around P50 billion to allow it to subsidize its hospitals, implement a comprehensive public health program and provide benefits to public health workers and professionals.

Rivera said the country's economic gains should first be reflected in public health care instead of, say, guns and bullets.

The group said the DOH budget only ranked seventh among the budgets for government agencies. The Department of National Defense would get about four percent of the budget pie while the Department of Transportation and Communications would get about two percent.

Nat'l police makeover starts with stations

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S GOODBYE TO DINGY AND dark police stations.

In a bid to win back the public's trust and confidence in the police, the leadership of the Philippine National Police has started a project to uplift law enforcement capabilities around the country beginning with the improved physical appearance of police stations.

Deputy Director General Jesus Verzosa, deputy chief for operations, said a clean and spruced up police station made a positive impression on the community.

"A well-lighted and clean police station gives the initial impact of good surroundings and makes for an atmosphere that is good for working and rendering public services," Verzosa told the INQUIRER.

He said the PNP's Program Management Office (PMO), which he heads and which is the proponent of the project, had identified three vital aspects in improving law enforcement services. These are facilities development, systems and procedures, and human resources.

Besides rebuilding or repainting police stations, Verzosa said the project, dubbed "Model Police Stations," would upgrade communications equipment and other tools for fighting crime.

The project will also involve training the policemen at these stations to be more responsive and efficient in their duties.

Already, the project has gained the support of foreign donor countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as local government and nongovernment units.

"Eventually, we would want to elicit more support from the communities themselves. By getting more involved in the communities, we will know their needs and problems related to crime fighting," Verzosa said.

Stench aborts Atienza tour of dirty Bulacan rivers

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

MARILAO, BULACAN—HIS OWN technical officers had protested the inclusion of two rivers in this town in an international list of the world's "dirty 30" or worst-polluted places, questioning the criteria used in the survey.

But when Environment Secretary Lito Atienza arrived for a boat tour of the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system on Friday, the stench alone was enough to make him cancel the cruise at the last minute.

Atienza admitted that he cancelled the tour because he was stung by the nauseating odor and "turned off" by the sad state of the river.

He said he would closely coordinate with Bulacan mayors, local environment officials and environment groups to clean up the rivers, hopefully "in two years."

Atienza chose to view the controversial rivers' condition from a safer distance atop the Poblacion Bridge here, and discussed ways to rehabilitate the toxic waterway with Gov. Joselito Mendoza, Mayor Epifanio Guillermo and other local government officials.

The Marilao and Meycauayan rivers were included in the list of the world's worst polluted places for 2007 compiled by Blacksmith Institute, an independent environment group based in New York.

The institute's report warned that "all the sites in the Dirty 30 are very toxic and dangerous to human health." Recycling plants and tanneries reportedly throw their waste untreated into the river, endangering the lives of some 250,000 residents.

The institute's top list was based on scoring criteria devised by an international panel that included researchers from Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University and Mount Sinai Hospital. Specialists from Green Cross Switzerland also participated in this year's assessment of more than 400 polluted sites, a press release from the institute said.

Atienza appealed to the local officials to relocate the tanneries and factories along the rivers in Meycauayan City and Marilao town.

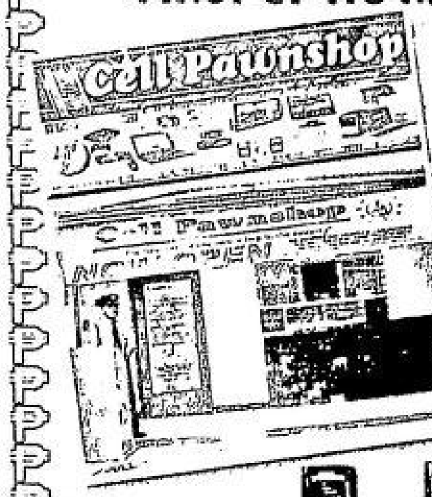
"That is what we did with Pasig River. We relocated the factories. Reviving the river cannot be done overnight," said Atienza, formerly the mayor of Manila.

He also urged local governments to stop issuing permits for new factories along the rivers and to strictly enforce measures on proper garbage disposal.

Local officials, however, pointed to Metro Manila towns and cities as another cause of their woes.

On Wednesday, Guillermo said the waste of 300,000 residents of Caloocan City were dumped in a relocation site in Bagong Silang and were swept by floodwaters into the waterways of Bulacan.

The Blacksmith report identified the pollutants in the Bulacan rivers as carcinogenic hexavalent chromium, heavy metals, pesticides, sewage, solid waste and tannery waste.



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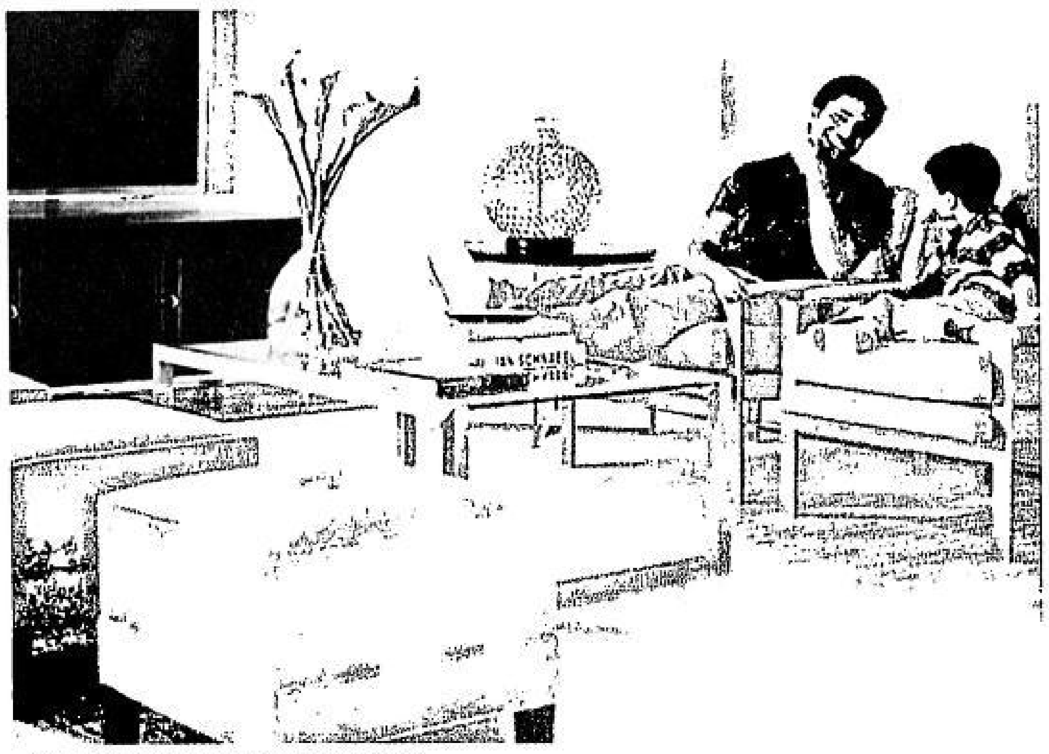

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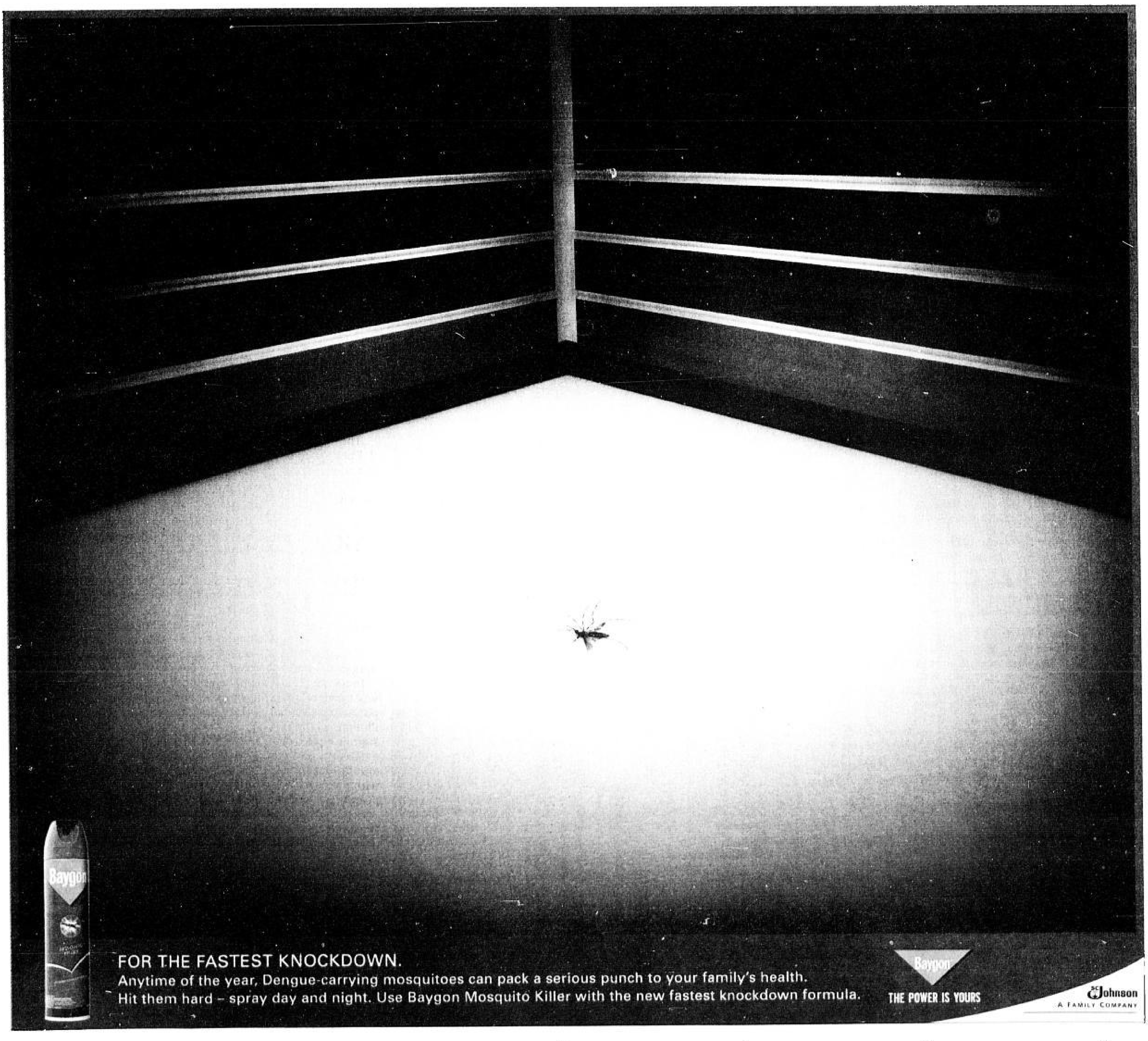
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Senators to continue probe; graft issues remain

From page A1

merely be a move to pacify the noise of the controversy?" he said.

Pangilinan said the Senate would press on with its inquiry so that "officials who enter into anomalous transactions" would be held accountable.

"Suspending the contract will not turn the problem around, nor prevent a repeat of this controversy. We will see this investigation through so that if any good should come out of this grave controversy, it is the lesson that we will not tolerate irregularities in public service," Pangilinan also said.

No effect on SC case

Howard Xue, ZTE global marketing director and chief information technology consultant, said the fate of the NBN deal now rested with the Supreme Court.

"We all need to bring everything to the Supreme Court, and whatever else would happen next must be done by following the legal process," Xue said in a phone interview shortly after Trade Secretary Peter Favila announced the suspension of the deal.

The suspension would have no effect on the case seeking its nullification pending in the Supreme Court, its spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said.

Early this month, the high court, acting on the petition of Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico and Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), voted 8-7 to issue a temporary restraining order prohibiting government officials from enforcing the ZTE contract pending the resolution of the two cases filed against it.

"As long as the TRO is being respected, meaning that they do not proceed with any loans and implement the contract, there won't be any problem," Marquez said.

AHI had proposed a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme for the NBN project. Its majority owner, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, a son and namesake of the Speaker, accused Abalos of trying to bribe him with $10 million to pull out of the project, and Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, of telling him to "back off."

Abalos has denied the accusation and is set to testify at the Senate next week.

Graft issues still there

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who had earlier insisted that the NBN project was "unnecessary, overpriced and overdesigned," again called on Malacañang to drop it.

"Why not cancel the contract altogether to defuse the charged political atmosphere and enable the government to start anew on solid and transparent footing?" he said, adding:

"I believe our historic ties and friendship with China are strong enough to overcome this."

Roxas cochairs the inquiry with Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Rodolfo Biazon.

Sen. Francis Escudero said Ms Arroyo had ordered the suspension "to probably render the Senate inquiry moot."

"But I don't think the Senate will buy it. Why just suspend [the contract when] the Supreme Court TRO already did that? The order is superfluous. She should already cancel it and order a review of all similar contracts entered into by government agencies," Escudero said.

Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said the suspension of the deal had no effect on the inquiry because "graft and corruption issues are still relevant."

Said Roxas: "The Palace decision will not impair or derail our hearings because these are held in aid of legislation so that such odious transactions will not happen again."

He said the government should submit the details of the contract for scrutiny. "We also need to hear the side of Chairman Abalos and other Cabinet officials. Our people deserve nothing less than a full explanation of all these matters," he added.

'Thank God'

Speaker De Venecia said he received news of the suspension of the deal from the President herself.

"I said, 'Thank God.' This is what I've been asking for for some time," he said, describing his reaction after he received a "message" at around 11 a.m. from Ms Arroyo that she was suspending the NBN deal and the Cyber Education Project.

"I called her up and I congratulated her," he added.

The Speaker said the suspension was "an act of courage and a commonsensical decision" on the part of the President.

"I'm very happy. This will reduce the tension in the country, and the controversy," he said.

The Speaker said he hoped that the suspension of the NBN deal would result in its conversion into a BOT project.

"This is what I have been hoping for. That the contract be suspended and converted into a [BOT project]. There will be no foreign loan, there will be no government subsidy, there will be no sovereign risk" he said.

'Delaying tactic'

Sen. Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal said the President's suspension order betrayed "how desperate she is to cover up her tracks."

"This is a delaying tactic to make the people forget the issue at hand so that she can consummate the deal at a later time," Madrigal said.

According to the senator, the only way the President can show that she is not involved in the scandal is to demand the resignation of Abalos, Mendoza and Assistant Transportation Secretary Lorenzo Formoso.

The Senate has so far held two hearings on the NBN project.

During the second hearing last Thursday that lasted more than six hours, Mendoza and Formoso failed to convince the senators of the top-priority need of the government to set up its own NBN to be funded by a loan from China.

Mendoza insisted that Abalos had never talked to him about the NBN deal, and denied that Mike Arroyo had tried to intimidate Joey de Venecia into backing out of the project.

But at the end of the hearing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said Abalos had arranged and attended a meeting with ZTE officials at the Teves residence last year.

Teves also said that early this year Mendoza had called him to a meeting with ZTE officials at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, where Abalos was also present.

"From the conflicting testimonies of Teves and Mendoza, it appears that cracks within the Cabinet are showing," said Pangilinan.

Importance of inquiry

ZTE's Xue said the firm was awaiting the next Senate hearings.

Asked what ZTE would do if the hearings did not push through because of the suspension of the contract, Xue responded by saying that the firm regarded the continuation of the investigation important.

"[A continuation] would allow the Senate to consider more information that it was not able to peruse because of the lack of time during the [previous hearings]," he said.

The NBN project involves the setting up of a state-of-the-art communications system that would interconnect all government agencies, down to the poorest municipalities. Through better communications, the government hopes to improve its delivery of services to the people.

ZTE issued a statement last week saying it had won the NBN project "fair and square."

"ZTE has completed numerous bigger projects around the world," Xue said in the statement.

ZTE: Truth doesn't reach public

He added: "We have proposed the best price, financing and technical proposal, and we are confident of beating all our competitors, so there is absolutely no need to bribe anybody to get the project.

"For so long, we keep trying to let the public know the facts about NBN and ZTE. We feel frustrated that even when we talked, the truth still cannot reach the public.

"All our voices were covered by more eye-attracting stories full of misleading information."

Xue also said ZTE was waiting for an opportunity to defend the project at the proper forum, on the basis of facts, figures and evidence. *With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Norman Bordadora and Ronnel W. Domingo*

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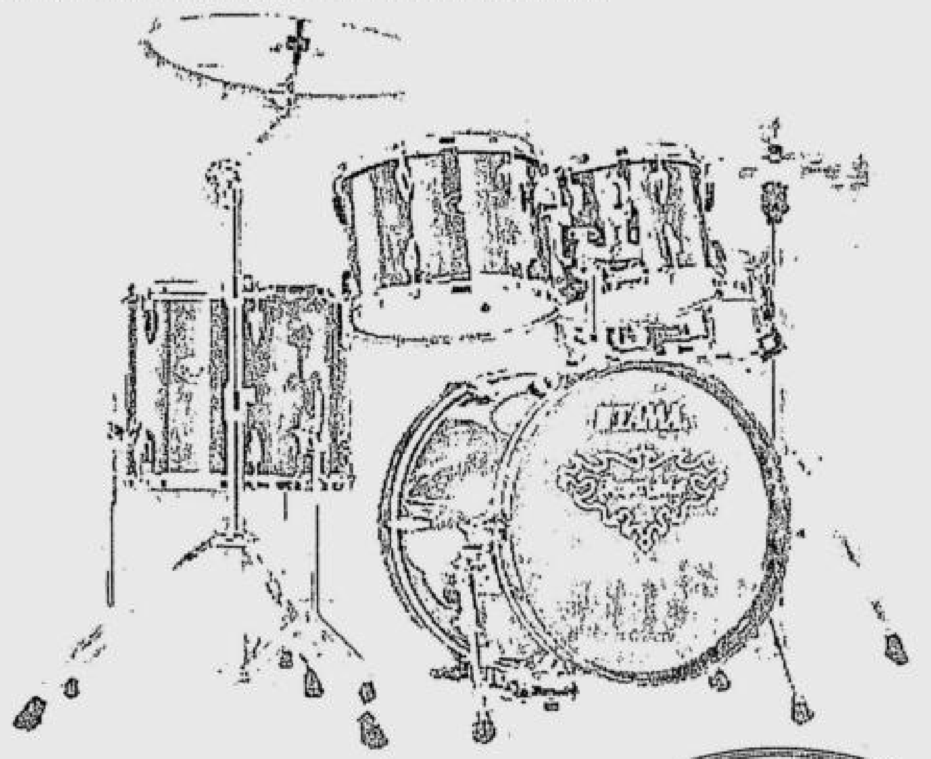

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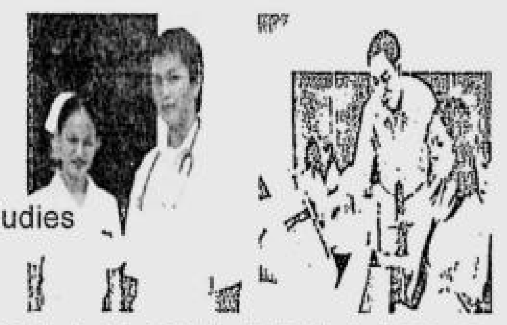

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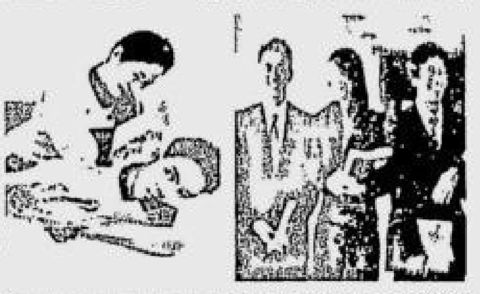

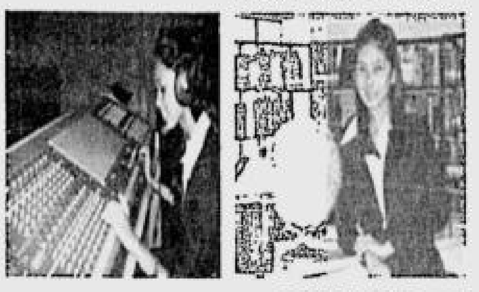

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Soldiers turn air base ...

From page A1

According to Maj. Gen. Fernando Manalo, commander of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC), crops had been ordered planted in a section of the air base that is being converted to agricultural use.

Under the program, the Armed Forces will provide the land, manpower and equipment while the Department of Agriculture will lend its expertise to turn soldiers into tillers.

DND-DA project

"We are going to convert vacant spaces to productive use. This is part of an agricultural project of Malacañang. There was an agreement between the DND [Department of National Defense] and the DA in 2001 so that all camps, all vacant spaces in bases will be converted to productive use," Manalo said.

He said the geographical location and rich soil of Fernando Air Base, considered the Air Force's "summer capital," make it ideal for growing marketable crops.

"At an elevation of 1,220 meters above sea level, the weather here is almost similar to Tagaytay," said Manalo.

"In farming, you need rich soil. We passed the soil test a month ago, and our land is good for growing any crops," said Col. Jesus Sampol, commander of the 550th Air Base Group, which makes him "mayor" of the camp.

Between 150 and 180 hectares of idle space inside the air base is being developed into agricultural land.

Papaya plantation

The project kicked off a month ago with the planting of high-quality "Sinta" papaya seedlings, a sweet variety of the fruit.

"There are five hectares being developed into a papaya plantation. What we want to do is make Fernando Air Base the source of produce supply for the whole of Batangas, and serve as a model agricultural lot and also a laboratory for [the cultivation of] different crops," said Maj. Gerardo Zamudio Jr., the base's chief information officer.

The 400 seedlings planted on Aug. 20 are expected to bear between seven to eight Sinta papayas each, 245 days from the sowing date, Sampol said.

Other crops currently being grown on military land are upland *kangkong*, string beans, eggplant, green and red bell peppers and tomatoes.

Sustained effort

"We are planting but at the same time, we can say we are still in the experimental stage. After we find which plants are really the best suited for the climate and soil, then we will enhance the planting of those," Sampol said.

"It will be a sustained effort. We will be embarking on procuring farm implements and other farm equipment to harness our resources," he said.

The fruits and vegetables grown at Fernando Air Base will be distributed to markets in Batangas, where officials see a ready consumer base.

The produce will also be sold to military personnel and dependents as well as residents inside the base, said Sampol.

To lower prices

According to Manalo, the hope is that the base's produce will drive down vegetable prices in the Batangas markets as there would be no need to source supplies from Baguio City.

"We've conducted a study that some vegetables normally grown in Baguio City can be grown here. We are now cultivating those so we can reduce the cost of veggies in the area," he said.

Sampol said tending the base's farm would become part of the regular duties of Fernando Air Base's 980 airmen.

"The full command will participate. This will be beneficial for everybody. Aside from enhancing our cooperation, camaraderie, teamwork and coordination, it is also a wholesome activity, most especially for our airmen, instead of indulging in other activities which are not productive," he said.

Senators vow another easy sail for cheap medicine bill

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SENATE HAS VOWED TO PASS A BILL that aims to bring down the cost of medicine before it adjourns on Oct. 13 for a three-week break.

In a caucus earlier this week, the senators agreed to fast-track deliberations on the cheaper medicines bill and 14 other measures that the Senate had already passed in the 13th Congress.

The measures, however, were not enacted either because the House of Representatives failed to pass its version of the measures as in the case of the cheaper medicines bill, or it did not ratify the final bicameral version.

Since they were not enacted into law, the bills had to be refiled in the 14th Congress and undergo the legislative process all over again.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that during the caucus the senators agreed to wrap up the committee hearings on the bills and to submit the committee report for plenary deliberation within the next two weeks.

The respective committee chairs will sponsor the bills on the floor for debate and final amendments before they are passed on third and final reading and referred to the House.

"By and large the previous committee report (in the 13th Congress) will be adopted. If there are any minor amendments, *hindi na lalayo* (they would not digress much)," Pangilinan said.

During the 13th Congress, the Senate unanimously passed a bill that lowers the prices of medicine by allowing the parallel importation of affordable medicine, and by revising the Intellectual Property Code to ease the stranglehold of multinational companies on drug patents.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the committee on trade and commerce and principal author of the bill, refiled the Senate's version of the bill.

Senate President Manuel Villar, on the other hand, had introduced a bill similar to the House version, which aims to lower the price of medicine by setting up a price regulatory board consisting of representatives from the government, drug companies and the health sector.

More oil firms hike fuel prices

THREE MORE OIL FIRMS JACKED UP THE pump prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter yesterday as world oil prices continued to escalate.

Total (Philippines) Corp. increased prices at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. will hike prices of the same products by the same level at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Petron Corp. , Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Crop. had earlier announced their respective price adjustments.

The price increases, the first since July, were spurred by high oil prices in the world market.

According to industry data, the price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude had escalated to an average of $72.32 a barrel in the first 20 days of September.

World crude oil prices breached the $80-a-barrel mark last week when power outages resulting from the entry of Hurricane "Humberto" in the area around the Texas-Louisiana border forced the temporary shutdown of three oil refineries there.

The advent of the winter season in the western hemisphere is also expected to increase the prices of diesel, which is commonly used as heating oil.

The latest price increase brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P39.57 and P42.27 a liter, diesel to between P33.10 and P35.62 a liter and kerosene to between P36.65 and P40.80 a liter. *Abigail L. Ho*

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Tender loving hospice care ...

From page A1

was diagnosed with peripheral nerve sheath cancer in 2000, said of her weekly well-wishers.

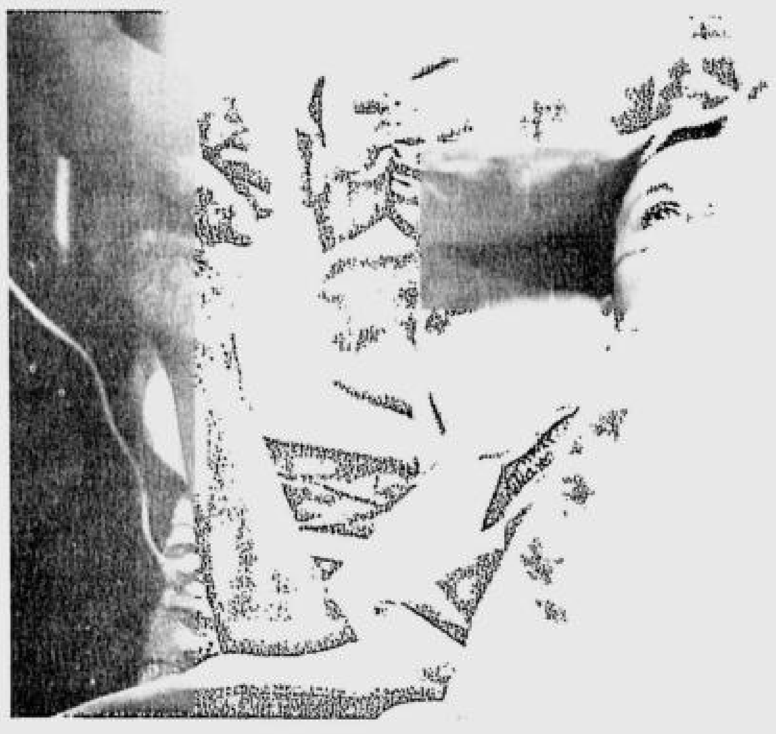
But perhaps more importantly, such visits assure her anxious family that they are not alone in that small, one-story apartment in Bayanan, Muntinlupa City, waiting for the inevitable.

Before leaving, the two women "pray over" Lyn, her bed now moved to the living area, which provides better ventilation and the quickest dash to the front door in case of an emergency. Heavy oxygen tanks and a small table for her medicines are within her reach.

"*Di ko alam kung saan kami pupulutin kung wala sila* (I don't know where we would be without them)," said the former lounge singer, whose condition had long forced her son and daughter, now both in their 20s, to quit school and look for work.

Kalalo and Allado, who both belong to a church-based foundation in Alabang, can be counted among the country's leading advocates of hospice care—the holistic, preferably home-based services given to patients for whom a cure is no longer possible.

HOLISTIC APPROACH: Volunteers from the Ayala Alabang hospice foundation make home visitations to provide patients medicine, equipment and counsel, listen to their concerns and pray over them. EDWIN BACASMAS



A HAND TO HOLD, sometimes that's all the patient needs to get over her/his depression, desperation and fears. EDWIN BACASMAS

Managing pain

"When nothing else can be done for patients, the goal is to manage their pain and their symptoms, to surround them with loved ones and give them the highest possible quality of life in their remaining days," said Kalalo, president of the National Hospice Council of the Philippines (NHCP).

The two women often make their rounds together, sometimes with a nurse and other volunteers from their parish in tow. They have a dual mission: To extend palliative care to the patients, and prepare their families for the impending loss.

Formed in 1994, NHCP is an umbrella group now composed of 24 member-organizations and staffed by 520 care providers nationwide.

"Hospi," as their services are fondly referred to, is mainly about relieving the patient of the day's pain and tomorrow's worries. Aside from easing the physical suffering, it also involves taking the patient's spirit by the hand through prayer and counseling before it wallows in fear, guilt or self-pity.

Home visits

Hence, Kalalo's local group, the Ayala-Alabang Hospice Care Foundation Inc., also arranges regular home visits by a priest and a small group of parishioners.

Such interventions are deemed crucial, especially if the patient has started entertaining dark notions of being "punished" by God or hounded by "bad karma," said Allado, who serves as the foundation's home care physician.

Hospice caregivers also try to create an atmosphere where the patient and his family can resolve lingering "issues"—like marital spats, strained relations with children or siblings or disputes over property—lest these conflicts weigh heavily on the patient, Allado explained.

The care can extend to post-mortem concerns. "We talk about burial plans, wills and the care of the children," she said.

Lyn, for instance, has already prepared a set of "advanced directives" detailing how she wishes to finally go: She wants it to be in a hospital, as painless as possible—and "no more tubes."

Never-give-up attitude

Kalalo conceded that most Filipino families still unfamiliar with hospice care may tend to have a "never-give-up" attitude and view it as a form of surrender, a sign of their lack of faith.

Many feel "guilty" about bringing the patient home from the hospital for good, and would rather subject him or her to further medical procedures—some quite invasive and stressful—even after being told of their futility.

"They'd rather make the patient stay at the hospital in the belief that they are doing him a favor," she said. "But in fact they may be just trying to ease their own consciences by showing that they have done everything possible."

The foundation has helped over 250 families overcome such dilemmas, she reported. At present, it is attending to eight indigent patients in the Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and Las Piñas areas.

Last year, they managed to find a donor for a hospital bed and had it delivered to the home of one of their patients, 58-year-old "Flor" of Barangay Putatan also in Muntinlupa.

The adjustable bed allows "Flor," afflicted with advanced-stage breast cancer, to lie down in a position that eases the pain in her back and legs. Regular doses of morphine have also made all the difference for this mother of five, who manages to stand up and move around the house.

With a lot of help from 'hospi'

She can do simple chores and tend to the family's sari-sari store. A good cook and one-time businesswoman, she even has the energy to entertain neighbors who would come over to consult her about certain recipes or how to process meat into native sausages or longaniza.

Last New Year's Eve, she was able to join the revelry by marveling at the fireworks from her bedroom window. "Without 'hospi' I probably would not have gone this far," she said, recalling that a doctor at the Philippine General Hospital had warned her that she may not last till the end of 2006.

About 300 foreign guests and 1,000 local delegates are expected to attend the international conference this week to share the latest developments and practices in hospice care.

Joe on Joey: 'An agent of the Lord'

From page A1

with China's ZTE Corp. and the $26.4-billion Cyber Education Project.

"He is an agent of the Lord, an agent of change. He is an agent of some form of moral regeneration," the elder De Venecia told the INQUIRER yesterday after Trade Secretary Peter Favila's announcement of the suspension of the deals.

It was Joey who exposed alleged anomalies in the multibillion-peso NBN deal. This included Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s alleged attempt to bribe Joey out of the project with $10 million and the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's threat to him to "back off."

Joey is a major stockholder in Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which came up with an unsolicited proposal for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme to undertake the NBN.

Joey said he was happy with the suspension but not totally.

"Why don't they just cancel the contract altogether? It is quite anomalous," he said. "Suspending it is like suspending classes. It appears they just want to ride out the political storm."

Joey added he was happy that his "crusade against corruption" had resulted in the contract's suspension.

"But it ain't over till the fat lady sings. That would be when the Supreme Court decides to cancel the contract or when the government itself does that," he said.

"I still don't know what to make of it (the suspension). I have yet to talk to my lawyers on what the suspension means," Joey said.

Testimony

His testimony against Mike Arroyo and Abalos in a Senate inquiry last week created quite a stir that put the Arroyo administration and those pushing for the ZTE contract in a bad light. It also compromised the elder De Venecia's relationship with the President and his position as Speaker.

"(Joey) was also for a BOT project that would entail no foreign loan, no government guarantee and no sovereign risk. We saved the country $329 million in foreign loans," the Speaker said of his son's role in the suspension of the controversial ZTE contract.

"Our country would have received another debt burden. You remember we were in a situation like that of Argentina (in 2004 when it appeared the country would default on its foreign loan obligations)," he said.

Joey was actually the only BOT proponent among those who bid for the NBN project that aims to connect the national government to its offices in the regions and to local government units. The other bidders were ZTE of China and Arescom of the United States.

Thank you, Dad

"Thank you, Dad," Joey said when told what the Speaker thought of him following the indefinite suspension of the ZTE contract.

The Speaker said he had proposed to the President, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Favila that the NBN be converted to a BOT project that would be put up for bid among ZTE, AHI and Arescom.

No longer interested

"But my son has already said he will no longer participate even if it's converted into a BOT," De Venecia said.

After Joey's testimony identifying Mike Arroyo as the "mystery man" who told him to "back off" from the deal, the Arroyo family and close allies expectedly cast doubt on Joey's credibility as a whistle-blower against corruption.

The President's son and Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Macapagal-Arroyo was quoted as saying that "even his (Joey's) father doesn't believe him."

The President's daughter, Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, on the other hand, said Joey's past experience with drug abuse may have affected his mind.

He smoked pot

In an earlier interview, Joey admitted that he had smoked marijuana as a teenager studying in the United States.

"I was studying in Boston... My grade point average was dropping," he said, adding that he checked into a New York institution in 1984 to seek a cure for his addiction.

Joey said that after his success with various business ventures, he brought in experts against drug addiction to help Filipinos kick the habit.

"People make mistakes. The important thing is that you correct them," he said.

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Cops list Oct. polls 'hot spots'

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police said yesterday it had begun identifying potential "hot spots" in the coming barangay elections.

Police Director Wilfredo Garcia, Directorate for Operations chief, said the PNP was looking at which of the country's more than 40,000 barangays might erupt in violence during the Oct. 29 polls.

He said places where violence broke out in last May's national elections were likely to be included in the list.

"Based on historical events, places like Abra, Nueva Ecija and Maguindanao are likely candidates for the list," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

In what may be a portent of things to come, four barangay officials were attacked in July.

"We are preparing our police forces to address the barangay elections. We have a lot of plans," PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said.

The national police chief reminded all the candidates in the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (youth council) elections to stay calm and avoid violence.

"We are appealing to barangay captains and other candidates not to be temperamental in this elections," Calderon said in Filipino. "Let the people decide who they would vote for. Whoever wins has the mandate. Let us have peaceful elections."

Calderon ordered police commanders to launch "preemptive drives" to prevent attacks on candidates and to initiate "peace dialogues" in areas considered to be hot spots.

Calderon also ordered the police to go after private armed groups, confiscate illegal firearms and set up checkpoints around Metro Manila and the entire country.

In last May's elections, over 100 persons died in poll-related violence.

"The October elections are our next major activity. We are coordinating with the Comelec (Commission on Elections) so the PNP can provide the appropriate assistance," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

Garcia issued on Friday the memorandum directing all commanders to identify the barangays with a history of election violence.

The commanders were also directed to identify the candidates for barangay and SK positions in previous "areas of concern." The purpose of this, Garcia said, was to initiate peace dialogues among the warring parties, a strategy adopted by the PNP in last May's elections.

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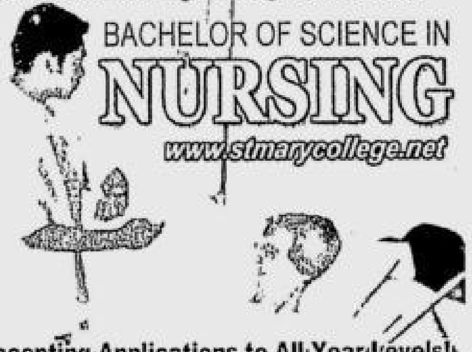

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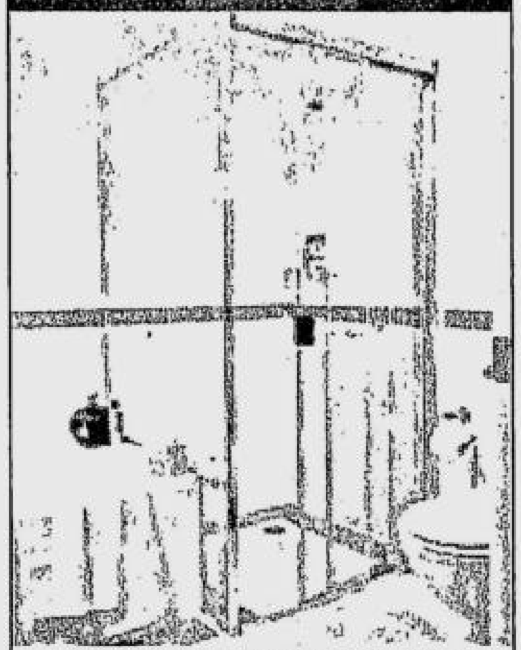

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‘Children’ build ‘Habitat’ for Bicol storm victims

By Jaymee T. Gamil and Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

DARAGA, ALBAY—A HUNDRED families from Barangay Busay here who lost their homes and loved ones to mudslides triggered by typhoon “Reming” last year have been given a new lease on life through a free permanent housing project of Children International (CI), a nonprofit organization that caters to the needs of impoverished children in 11 countries.

The 13,071-square-meter housing site located in the nearby upland village of Pandan was aptly christened “Mabuhay Village” during groundbreaking ceremonies held Friday.

As Mabuhay Village was being unveiled, the Bicol Express Caravan of Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) was leaving Manila to arrive in Albay on Saturday to jump-start the building of some 2,000 houses for Bicol disaster refugees still living in tents and shanties.

P60M for houses

Albert Jugo, HFHP president, said they will spend around P60 million to build houses for Bicol in partnership with relief organization Compassion International.

So far, they have helped build 40 schools, mostly in Sorsogon province, and repair more than 1,500 houses.

He said the use of modern technology made HFHP distinct as a development organization that builds decent, durable yet affordable houses for the needy.

THE HEAVY rains did not deter Australian volunteer Aimee Mcveigh, 26, and about 600 others from building houses for typhoon victims at the Anislag Resettlement site in Daraga, Albay, during the Bicol Express Build Caravan of Habitat for Humanity Philippines.

NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

The houses are given for free in disaster response.

Despite the incessant rains, some 600 volunteers wearing yellow hard hats rolled their sleeves at the Anislag resettlement site here to start building the foundations and steel frame of houses worth P70,000 each.

‘Hope is not lost’

“The surviving families feel as though they have been lifted up and told to continue living. As long as they are alive, hope is not lost,” said Al Abainza, director of Child Sponsorship for Community Development Inc., the operating agency of CI in Legazpi City.

A total of 101 typhoon-resistant housing units are slated to be built, with P253,000 allocated for each house.

Each unit, which will occupy a 63-sq m lot, will consist of a 30-sq m concrete house with two bedrooms, a living area and a bathroom, with running water and electricity.

The village will also have a road network, with the streets to be named after values the restored community it is hoped would exhibit, such as “Maginhawa” (Comfortable), “Makadiyos” (God-loving), “Maboot” (Kind), “Magalang” (Respectful), “Mahigos” (Hardworking), and “Maminomootan” (Loving).

The housing area has been identified by the regional Mining and Geosciences Bureau as a hazard-free zone.

Sweat equity

“In exchange for the houses, we only ask beneficiary families to put in 500 hours of ‘sweat equity’ during the construction of their new homes,” Abainza said.

The first 57 houses are now being constructed, with at least 20 units expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Michael Loterina, a Busay evacuee and one of the beneficiaries of the Pandan housing project, was grateful for the project.

“Not only are our children provided safe shelter, they are also given an environment free from health hazards and bad influences,” he said.

Busay Barangay Captain Amado Lorejo said there were still 276 families from their village in need of permanent housing.

Lorejo was optimistic that those still residing in temporary shelters would not be left behind.

The glee on the face of Glenda Montas, 38, of Barangay Bañag could not be hidden as she signed up as one of the volunteer builders of the house that would become the permanent home for her family in Barangay Anislag.

Montas lost her house, livestock, store and belongings to the flashfloods. A widow, she managed to carry her four children to a church.

Transforming lives

At least 168,000 houses were destroyed and 255,000 damaged by supertyphoon Reming, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

Former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, HFHP cochair and one of the pioneers of the caravan, said the project was conceptualized to speed up the construction of houses for the thousands rendered homeless by Reming.

Moran added that building houses was an entry point to transform lives in a community.

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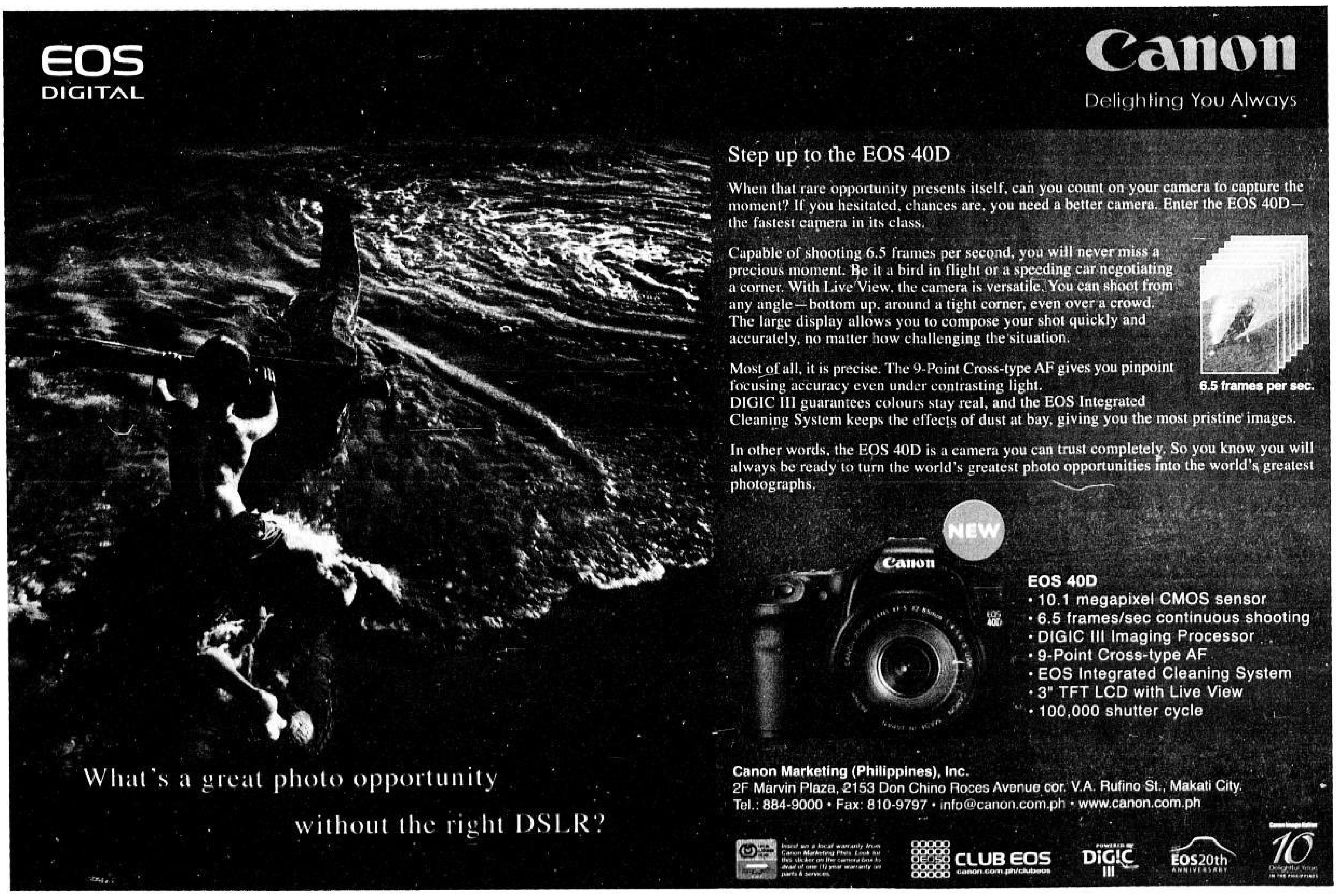

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LBP employees sue union execs

SOME 40 EMPLOYEES OF THE Land Bank of the Philippines have filed administrative and criminal charges with the Ombudsman against the Landbank Employees Association national executive board (LBPEA-NEB).

The charges involve the P336-million contract awarded to Maxicare Healthcare Corp. for medical coverage without a public bidding, the employees' lawyer, Homobono A. Adaza, said.

Named respondents were Maria Lourdes Diaz-Pineda, LBPEA-NEB national president; Marcos Rabano and Garizalde Casaul, vice presidents; Gregorio Wilson Uyonco, treasurer; Marlin Marilag, auditor; Cristina Gutierrez, secretary general and Nemesio Sumulong, Milo Satumba, Nelson Pacis, Cecile Benitez, Armel Alcantara, May Dar-Arizabal, Rafael Capaque, Divinagracia Platon-David, John Holgado, Rhoel Vaflor, Menandro Rillon, directors.

Adaza said the Middle Management Officers Association Inc. (MMOAI), a group of middle managers at Landbank, had opted not to sign up for the HMO coverage negotiated by LBPEA since 2005.

He said the MMOAI, with 800 members, was able to negotiate a better medical package than the one the 6,000 LBPEA members nationwide got.

The LBPEA members, he said, were not informed by the board of its transactions and were thus denied their right—under the LBPEA constitution—to know about all major financial transactions entered into by the board.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 23, 2007
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Crime of the oppressors.

Hear this, you who trample on the needy to do away with the weak of the land. You who say, "When will the new moon or the sabbath feast be over that we may open the store and sell our grain? Let us lower the measure and raise the price; let us cheat and tamper with the scales, and even sell the refuse with the whole grain. We will buy up the poor for money and the needy for a pair of sandals."

Yahweh, the pride of Jacob, has sworn by himself, "I shall never forget their deeds."

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Prayers for all.

First of all I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for rulers of states and all in authority, that we may enjoy a quiet and peaceful life in godliness and respect. This is good and pleases God. For he wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. As there is one God, there is one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave his life for the redemption of all. This is the testimony, given in its proper time, and of this, God has made me apostle and herald. I am not lying, I am telling the truth: He made me teacher of the nations regarding faith and truth.

I want the men in every place to lift pure hands in prayer to heaven without anger and dissension.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

The astute steward.

Jesus told his disciples, "There was a rich man whose steward was reported to him for fraudulent service. He summoned the steward and asked him: 'What is this I hear about you? I want you to render an account of your service for it is about to be terminated.'

"The steward thought to himself: 'What am I to do now? My master will surely dismiss me. I am not strong enough to do hard work, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do: I must make sure that when I am dismissed, there will be some people to welcome me into their house.'

"So he called his master's debtors one by one. He asked the first who came: 'How much do you owe my master?' The reply was: 'A hundred jars of oil.' The steward said: 'Here is your bill. Sit down quickly and write there fifty.' To the second he put the same question: 'How much do you owe?' The answer was: 'A thousand measures of wheat.' Then he said: 'Take your bill and write eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the people of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the people of light. And so I tell you: Use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, these people may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in slight matters will also be dishonest in greater ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who could entrust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with things which are not really yours, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he does not like the one and is fond of the other, or he regards one highly and the other with contempt. You cannot give yourself both to God and to Money."

Commentary

Amos excoriates the people who destroy the poor and at the same time practice injustice/greed to make a profit, sell the laborer short, endanger peoples' lives, and make people no more than indentured servants. Even at worship all they think about is how to make more money in unjust ways. God will never forget a single thing they have done to the poorest and the least. (We are among the richest nations of the earth, by far, and the least generous in giving even when disaster strikes—what does our God see us doing?)

These readings declare that we are Christian but that we live in a world that is not and we must together reveal our being Christian in our words/deeds/action. We are not to just singly make do when our nation/country defies God and practices what God finds abhorrent in regard to economic justice, the basic necessities of life for all, and life itself with human dignity.

Jesus tells the story of a manager who cheats his master, and at the same time, ingratiates himself with his master's customers/debtors. He is going to be dismissed (in his greed, he overstepped the profit he took—more than his master's share). So he brings in each of the debtors and substantially drops what they owe (you can see how much he was raking in). Thus he makes friends who will provide for him when he is out of a job. The master recognizes his astuteness and praises him. And us—what have we done with what our God has shared with us? Do we make a profit on the side for ourselves? Can we be trusted with the treasures of God—the poor, the little ones, the crucified ones, those who are the presence of God among us?

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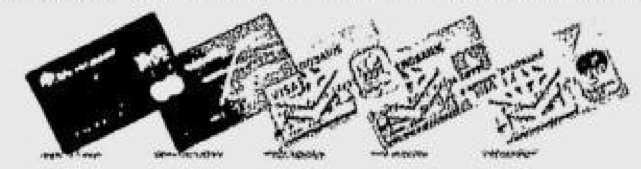

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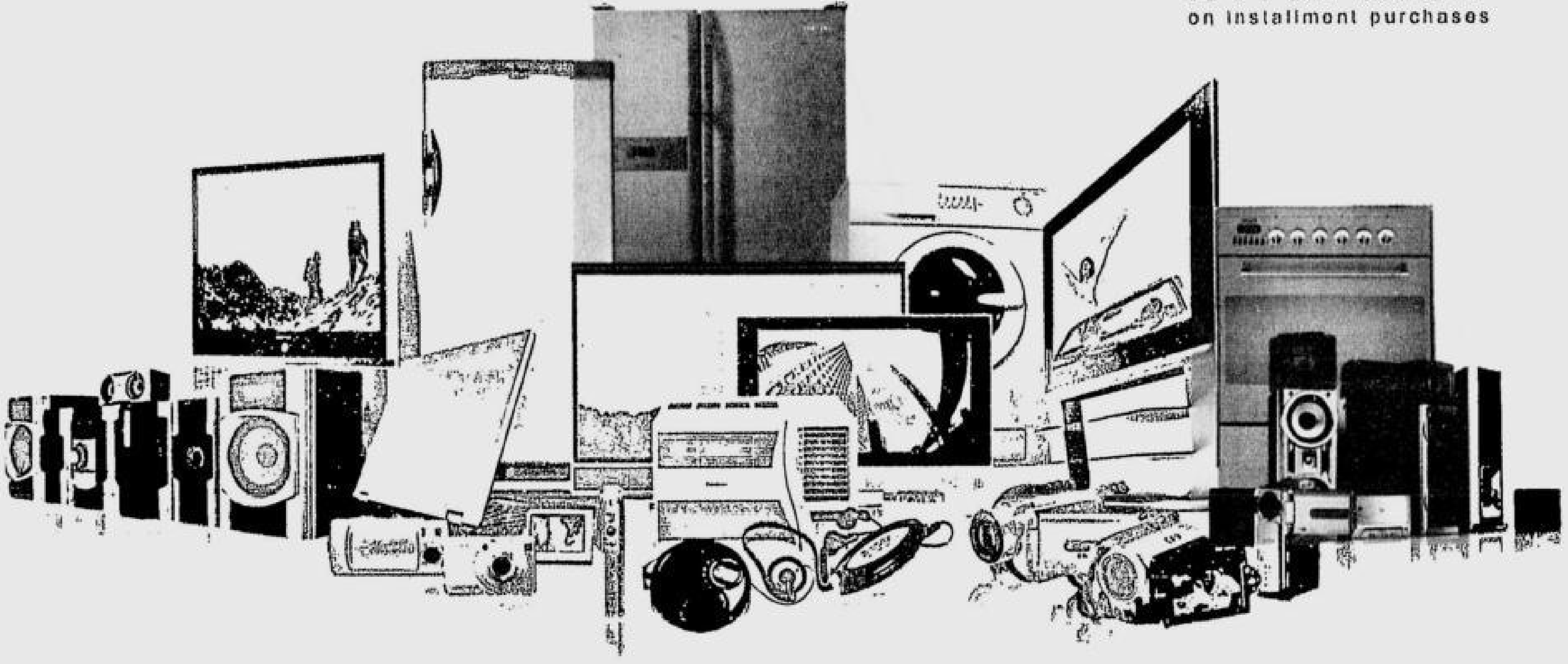

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OPINION

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No excuse

HASTE MAKES WASTE—AND LAYS WASTE TO THE cause of good government. It was with apparent haste that reporters were summoned yesterday to hear Trade Secretary Peter Favila and acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera announce the latest instructions from the President: Both the ZTE deal and the Cyber Education Project have been suspended.

EDITORIAL

This is like the President saying, at 4:40 in the afternoon, she's issued a decree ordering the sun to set later in the day. Of course, there will be a sunset, but only a fool would attribute it to the President. But the Palace obviously thinks there are plenty of fools. For only foolish minds would confuse the President's instructions with anything substantial. What has put the ZTE deal on hold took place prior to the President's issuing her instructions. The deal was put on hold, and remains on hold, because of a TRO issued by the Supreme Court.

Therefore it really doesn't matter at all, what the President's instructions are—even with regard to the Cyber Education Project, which we already predicted will be the next focus of congressional and public inquiry. So the obvious thing here is, this is a public relations move, but it does not affect basic government policy.

And we say haste lays waste to good government, because pressed on what government intended to do next, and why the administration suddenly reversed itself on two huge projects, the two secretaries were at a loss for words. Favila simply stated the President told them what to say. Devanadera, obviously less politically suave, then told the media that the ZTE deal was legally defensible; Favila then told the media that the President's decision was triggered by "bad publicity"—see how it's basically a PR move?

The question then becomes, will the President's weekend attempt to take credit for an act of the Supreme Court be enough to defuse tensions? Will it be enough, for example, to maintain the brittle peace within her ruling coalition? Could it stop a potentially explosive Senate hearing on Wednesday, where former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri is due to testify under oath?

Newsbreak has put forward this version of events. The Comelec chair, its report says, approached then Neda chief Neri for "help" with the ZTE deal. Neri replied he'd take a look. Abalos, the report says, took this to mean Neri wasn't interested, so he quickly said, "There's 200 for you here." Neri asked what he meant. Abalos allegedly replied, "200 million." End of conversation.

Neri, the report says, then went to the President and told her about the offer. When Neri told her that he refused it, the President supposedly told him to forget the money but to approve the deal. Two days later, Neri was removed from the National Economic and Development Authority.

This is a version of events that requires investigation. With both Abalos and Neri scheduled to appear before the Senate, now, more than ever, the hearings should proceed.

The administration pulled out all the stops to try to deflect attention and reduce the focus on the NBN controversy, using fair means and foul. Everything and everyone—from presidential daughter Evangeline "Luli" Arroyo's display of cattiness, to the AFP chief of staff's blowhard statements of a destabilization plot and how martial law is a necessary tool in government's legal arsenal, to this; the latest clumsy move by the President—have been tried.

The Senate then must ponder if it wants to be an accomplice to this effort to sweep things under the rug, or if it will pull the rug out from under the feet of some extremely nervous officials. The President said the ZTE contract would be suspended—"no ifs, ands or buts." What there should be no ifs, ands or buts about is that the public interest requires a continuation of the Senate hearings.

The hearings themselves, after all, not only subject executive officials to much-needed public scrutiny, they also put the senators under the microscope. This can only be healthy for the body politic. This is what public accountability is all about. May we remind the President of one of her favorite expressions: "Let the chips fall where they may."

Even at the very desk of the President of the Philippines, if necessary.

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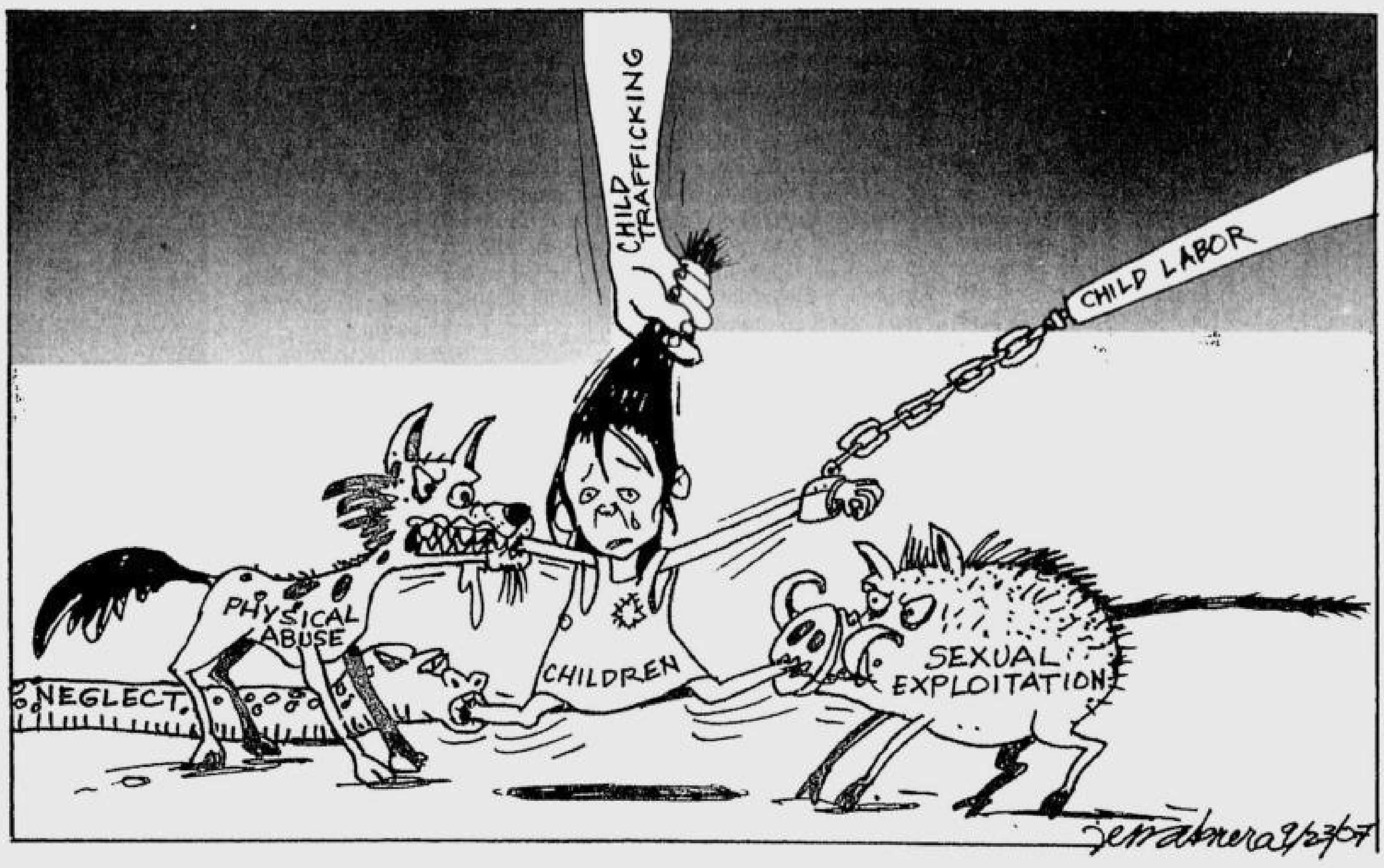


Executive clemency for Estrada

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

REP. RUFUS RODRIGUEZ SAYS THAT WHILE Joseph Estrada will definitely reject a presidential pardon, he might consider an amnesty provided he agrees with the fine print in the proclamation. This is also subject to the two conditions required by the Constitution, to wit, that the President will agree to grant the amnesty and Congress will obediently concur.

Estrada says that a pardon is unacceptable because it will require a previous admission of guilt. He insists that he is innocent of the plunder charge against him despite the 212-page decision of the Sandiganbayan. His fear would be valid if the pardon offered him was conditional, but not if it was absolute. The absolute pardon may be forced upon a convict even if he may foolishly decline it.

A convict may want to stay as a non-paying lodger in the convenient premises of the national penitentiary, especially now that the cost of living is astronomically high like the unemployment figures. The State may refuse to accommodate him at added expense to the government, together with the other inmates entitled to official support as convicted criminals. To enjoy the privilege he seeks, he must commit another crime, confess, and be deservedly imprisoned like the other scoundrels.

Most pardons are conditional and will be automatically revoked if the grantee commits another crime during the prohibited period. Erap will certainly reject that condition because he says it will imply that he has committed the crime of plunder imputed to him by the Sandiganbayan. He says it is not he who lied at the trial but Clarissa Ocampo et al. who should be prosecuted for perjury, of which, *nota bene*, he was acquitted by the kangaroo court.

If out of the goodness of her heart and with sincere gratitude for making it possible for her to replace him in Malacañang, GMA should decide to grant Erap a special pardon just for him, with no strings attached, then and only then will he gladly accept her benevolence. Otherwise, begging your pardon, Madame President, your conditional pardon is rejected.

So now let us go to the other alternative, which is amnesty. Under present jurisprudence, it is like a conditional pardon in also compelling previous admission of guilt before it can be enjoyed. It was different before, when it absolved Jose P. Laurel, Claro M. Recto and others of collaboration with the Japanese occupation government without having to admit they were guilty. Otherwise, they would have preferred to continue with their trial where they were sure to be acquitted.

That has all been changed. In Vera v. People of the Philippines, 7 SCRA 152, and two other earlier cases, the Supreme Court had reversed the old doctrine and now requires previous admission of guilt as a condition precedent for the grant of amnesty. "Amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime," it said, "and when an accused maintains that he has not committed a crime, he cannot have any use for amnesty."

Amnesty is supposed to extinguish not only the penalty as in pardon but also the offense itself, which disappears and is considered never to have existed at all. If that be so, there would therefore be nothing for the expectant grantee to confess as obliged by the present rule. But that is a point only Erap may want to raise, not this humble observer for lack of what we lawyers call *locus standi*.

The other objection to amnesty is that it is usually applied to political crimes committed by many persons, like dissidents or tax evaders. It does not cover particular individuals, or only one in the Estrada case, accused of common crimes unlike those directly against the government such as coup d'etat or treason. Plunder does not necessarily have political color and may be committed by any person even if not a government functionary. It is simply theft of immense dimensions, like the close to a billion-peso loot Erap was held to have stolen.

The argument that Erap should be pardoned or amnestied because he has already been amply punished with his preventive detention for more than six years is straight from the sob sisters. The sentence imposed on him is *reclusion perpetua*, which has a span of 40 years to be suffered not in a rest house in Tanay but in the confines of a prison cell. During his relaxed restriction, he cannot deny that he enjoyed extraordinary privileges allowed him as a former President of the Philippines still presumed to be innocent.

If Erap is so sure he can expose and demolish the errors of the Sandiganbayan on appeal, he should reject all this talk of his possible forgiveness by GMA and instead seek relief from the Supreme Court which he cannot, so far, call a kangaroo court. His trial took all of six years that consumed considerable time, effort, mutual animosity and money. All of these would be wasted with the grant to him of executive clemency that he vigorously protests he does not need because he is blameless.

Dishonesty

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HUSBAND AND wife who were having dinner when the phone rang. The husband told the wife: "If it is for me, say I'm not at home."

The wife answered the phone and said: "He is at home."

When the husband asked why she said that, the wife replied: "It was for me."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 1-13) Jesus reminds us that whoever is dishonest in small matters is also dishonest in great ones. He also reminds us that the standards of this world are not the same as God's standards: The dishonest steward was wise and prudent in the world's eyes, but still he was dishonest in God's eyes. In other words, one can get away with dishonesty in this life, and he who does so may even be considered prudent or wise; but more than worldly wisdom, God sees a person's purity of heart.

* * *

What caused the steward to be dishonest? He was about to be fired by his employer, so he had to make provisions for his future. Ask any corrupt government official or businessman, or any ordinary person why he/she thinks of making extra money by whatever means and most likely, the motivation is insecurity and fear of the future, be it for one's lonely retirement, or for one's family. To them we address this question: How about the fear of God?

* * *

To those who feel good and confident about their retirement from public life because they have made enough provisions for their sunset years, we ask: How about your provisions for eternity? How about your entry to heaven? Are you sure at all you will have sunset years? "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

* * *

I don't want to sound "kill joy" to those who insist on "gather(ing) hay while the sun shines." Go ahead, gather hay, but not at the expense of others, please! Rejoice and be glad you have earned, but in the process, did you leave others cheated or burned? Did you sacrifice your values and principles? Did you use and abuse people, especially the "little ones" in our midst? Finally, did you in the process, "gain the world and lose your soul"? Think again: Is it worth it all?

* * *

We can understand (though not condone) if, mortals as we are ("*tao lang po*!"), we are dishonest here and there. But, for those who make millions, even billions of "dirty money," and who go on doing so, we ask with indignation: When does it end? When is enough enough? When will you stop? When, oh when, will you ever learn?

* * *

It is disgusting to hear of public servants who rob and cheat us. What is more disgusting is that they continue to do so and get away with it, and still the majority of us seem to be saying "It's all right, as long as they do not affect our private lives." It's not all right! And, like it or not, it does affect our private lives! How many of you out there would like to join me in shouting: "*Hoy* public servants *lang kayo*! Stewards *lang kayo*! Who do you think you are? Affecting the lives of so many people? Stop fooling us for God's sake!"

* * *

The parable in today's Gospel ends with the master commending the dishonest steward for acting prudently, and the Lord goes on to chide us that "the children of this world are more prudent than the children of the light." However, in real life, are we just going to let justice pass us by? Are we going to let evildoers go unpunished, and let them go on with their collecting spree? We have a government, we have a justice system in our country, don't we?

* * *

Thank God that from time to time, and at opportune times, God raises from our midst, prophets who point to the truth and disturb those who are comfortable. While many in our generation are just comforting the comfortable, I am edified to know that there are young people in our midst who give a hoot as to what happens to this country and who are serious in their crusade for change "within their lifetime." I don't know where Jose "Joey" de Venecia III is coming from, but I know where he is leading to: a clearer picture of the truth. Wanted: More Joeys out there who are not afraid to surface and take the risk.

* * *

Inviting you on Sept. 30, Sunday, eve of my birthday, for the launching of my new book "Just A Moment," a collection of daily moments from January to December; and also my CD "Oh Some Moments," a collection of stories, jokes and reflections on audio. Proceeds will help our Filipino SVD missionaries overseas. Mass is at 4 p.m. in Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City. See you!

* * *

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum with the topic "Legal Issues and Late Stage of Alzheimer's Disease." This will be held on Sept. 29, 2007, 8 a.m. to 12 nn at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 373-2262/09174167849.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that the time to stop dishonesty is now, and the person to begin honesty is me. Amen.

Solving the judicial vacancy problem

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

ONE OF THE PERENNIAL COMPLAINTS OF LITIgants is the long delay in the resolution of cases. There are many causes for this malady, like the humongous number of pending cases, the dilatory tactics of lawyers, the laziness of some judges, and yes, the large number of vacant judgeship positions. Today, I will focus on this last item, the huge judicial vacancy.

Long festering problem. The judiciary plantilla—from the highest to the lowest courts—contains 2,258 magisterial positions. For many years, however, more than one-third of these posts have remained vacant, mainly because of low pay (average salary was only about P25,000 per month) and security problems in outlying posts.

Thanks to a new law (Republic Act 9227), sponsored principally by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, the take-home compensation of magistrates in all levels had been increased 100 percent, effective Nov. 6, 2006. The pay raise takes the form of nontaxable allowances sourced from an increase in docket and similar fees. Together with other benefits, principally from the Judicial Development Fund dispensed by the chief justice, the minimum monthly pay for judges is now about P80,000.

At the beginning of 2006, there were 666 vacant judgeships that constituted 29.45 percent of the 2,258 positions. To fill up these vacancies speedily, the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC)—at my initiative as then chief justice—agreed to expand its work by mounting an active search campaign to entice the best and the brightest lawyers to join the judiciary. In the past, the JBC just waited patiently for those interested to apply.

The JBC's three "s" functions. But I realized that in order to fill up speedily the huge vacancy, there was need for the JBC not only to **screen** and **select** nominees, but also to **search** for **qualified** lawyers who were "shy" in filing applications. The JBC needed to conduct a massive information drive to let these lawyers know of the vacancies in their regions, the procedure for applying and the more substantial compensation available.

The four regular JBC members—Dean Amado L. Dimayuga, retired Supreme Court Justice Regino C. Hermosisima Jr., Atty. J. Conrado P. Castro and retired Sandiganbayan Justice Raoul V. Victorino—crisscrossed the various regions of the country, conducting seminars and dialogues with lawyers' groups, the legal academe, local governments and non-governmental organizations. I asked them "to work extra hard to nominate enough candidates to enable the President to fill up some 300 vacancies and thus reduce the vacancy rate by about one-half."

To hasten nominations, the JBC worked double time in sorting, encoding and screening the applications. After the information campaign, the regular members traveled to the major cities, north and south, to conduct interviews and give psychological/psychiatric tests to applicants. With grit and doggedness, the JBC was, by the end of 2006, able to transmit to the President enough nominations to fill up 316 vacancies, thereby exceeding its self-imposed target of 300.

This batch of 316 nominations—processed in a period of less than one year—is unequalled in JBC's history. To achieve that number, the council had to screen, test and interview about 10 applicants per position, or a total of 3,160 lawyers. And to comply with the constitutional requirement of at least three candidates for every vacancy, it had to look for and send about 1,000 worthy nominees to the Palace.

For the year 2006, however, the President issued only 219 appointments out of the 316 submitted to her by the JBC. Thus, the actual vacancy rate, at the end of that year, fell to only 25.2 percent. On the other hand, if all the 316 were filled up, the vacancy rate would have dropped to 17.40 percent.

This policy of speedily filling judicial vacancies was continued in 2007 by the JBC under Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno. As of Sept. 18, 2007, the Palace had issued an additional 271 judicial appointments thereby reducing the vacancy rate to 18.87 percent. However, there are still 47 vacancies for which the JBC has already submitted nominations. If these would be filled up on time, the vacancy rate would drop to an all-time low of 16.78 percent. Parenthetically, may I add that new vacancies were created in 2007, thereby necessitating more nominations and appointments.

President must follow the Constitution. At this point, it is quite obvious that only the continuing grit of the JBC and the timely issuance of appointments by the Office of the President can solve the huge judicial vacancy rate, and trigger the consequential hastening of litigations. The Constitution commands that "(f)or the lower courts, the President shall issue the appointments within ninety days from the submission of the list." In the case of Supreme Court, the 90-day period is to be reckoned from the "occurrence" of the vacancy.

However, the records clearly show that many of the judicial appointments were issued beyond the period mandated by the Constitution. The Office of the President tried to circumvent the Constitution by antedating the appointment papers to fall within the 90-day prescription.

With due respect, this circumvention is untenable. To stress, the Charter says, "The President **shall issue** (not shall date) the appointments within ninety days from the submission of the list." Furthermore, the Constitution obviously wants judicial vacancies filled up speedily. Antedating clearly frustrates this noble intent.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Protecting, celebrating nature

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A BIOTECH SOLUTION TO BRING DOWN THE levels of toxic by-products of the tanning process employed by the leather industry in Bulacan. Biofertilizer, making use of vermicompost, marketed in tablet form. A student-initiated and organized project to raise eco-awareness among the stakeholders on the different UP campuses in time for the observance of UP's centennial next year. A different and "fun" way to raise awareness among students about solid waste management through the use of waste bins in the guise of basketball hoops.

These are the award-winning projects, among the 13 finalists, submitted as part of the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys competition held annually by Bayer, in conjunction with the UN Environmental Program, in various countries around the world. The four Filipino winners will be joining their counterparts from Asia, Latin America and Africa on a trip to Germany where they will not only learn about Bayer's and the German government's environment-friendly policies and practices, but also share among themselves their thoughts and plans for the greening of the planet.

During the final judging last Thursday, the judges were impressed not only by the young people's ability to articulate and defend their projects, but even more, by the creativity they employed in planning their projects, and by their efforts at organizing coalitions and raising funds to get them going. Heading the board of judges was Odette Alcantara of the Mother Earth Movement, with lawyer Jonas Leones of the Environment Management Bureau, Dr. Rey Esguerra of the Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Olivia Castillo of the Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, and this columnist.

The final judging followed a months-long search for entrants, who were required to submit not just their plans and ideas, but also regular updates on the progress they were making, as well as the results they were getting. All 13 finalists had hurdled regional screenings and then took part in an "eco-camp" (which Bayer hosts annually) held this year in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

* * *

DURING THE awards rites, Bayer justifiably took pride in the accomplishments of BYEE alumni, some of whom had gone on to play important roles in international environmental conferences and organizations. Other alumni have also continued their early exposure to environmental work, as scientists, scholars, lawyers and local leaders.

Clearly, the environment for them was not just an excuse to win a competition or gain some recognition, but a lifetime commitment, a cause they have decided to pursue beyond the immediate rewards. And thank goodness, because the abysmal state of the environment and the threats to it have grown beyond the ability of a single entity, or even government, to address.

Congratulations, then, to all 13 finalists, most of whom were students of colleges and universities outside of Metro Manila, especially the four who made the grade for the Germany trip: Clarisse Quimio, Jan Dacumos, Ramon Lorenzo Guinto and Francis Richard Villar.

* * *

NATURE, trees in particular, emerged as the theme of the joint exhibit of painter Del Garcia and sculptor/carver Benny Pagayon. With the double title "Honest Expressions/Emerging Imagery," the exhibit, which runs until Oct. 13 at Le Soufflé in The Fort, celebrated nature—its imagery, beauty and the message it holds for all who behold it.

My husband and I took particular joy and pride in being present at the exhibit opening as Del and his wife Becky have been our friends for many years. Del was with Pie at the Art and Audio-Visual Section of the Corporate Affairs Office of San Miguel Corp., and upon leaving the corporate setting returned to what he calls his "first love," painting.

Indeed, many of the pieces on exhibit looked familiar, and we recognized them as scenes we glimpse in the as yet untamed garden of our home in Alfonso, Cavite near Tagaytay. We got quite a kick spotting the trees in our lot, as well as the landscape of adjacent lots. Clearly, Del was doing more than just taking in the cool air during his many visits throughout the phases of the house's construction.

Del calls his painterly expressions "honest" because, like the Impressionists he emulates, he believes in "capturing reality and depicting what (one) sees at a given moment." It's no small accomplishment to take such everyday items like trees, branches, roots, and even seascapes and turn them into images that delight and leave distinct impressions.

* * *

I MADE a faux pas when I first spotted Benny's pieces, asking if they were sculptural pieces or found objects. It turns out they're both. To fully appreciate the artist's work, though, one needs to pick up the tree roots, branches or bark and examine them carefully. For on these wood pieces are carved images that Benny alone discerned, enhanced by strokes of a knife or whatever tool he had in hand, including a screwdriver.

Benny found his calling when, handling some driftwood and pieces of dead uprooted trees, he "saw" images in the whorls and knots, rings and patterns and decided to outline them, adding features like eyes, feathers or limbs when necessary.

To experience Benny's artworks, then, is to engage in an intimate, almost archeological, viewing. Holding the pieces up close, one needs to search for the images "emerging" from the surrounding wood, an experience full of surprise and discovery, and sometimes, even the thrill of exploration.

He may be working with "dead" wood, but Benny proves that with the mind's eye fully opened to possibilities, it is possible to give new life even to pieces we would otherwise discard and dismiss as mere junk, waste material.

Russia and the Kosovo Card

WORLD VIEW

Charles Tannock

TBILISI—LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP IS AS SOUND a principle in foreign policy as it is in life. But again, the Bush administration is preparing to leap into the unknown. Even though lack of foresight is universally viewed as a leading cause of its Iraq debacle, the United States (with probable British backing) is now preparing to recognize Kosovo's independence unilaterally.

Kosovo has been administered since 1999 by a United Nations mission, although it remains formally a part of Serbia. But, with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority demanding its own state, and with Russia refusing to recognize UN mediator Martti Ahtisaari's plan for conditional independence, the United States is preparing to go it alone, Albania or a separate state), the United States plans to act without the UN's blessing, arguing that only an independent Kosovo will bring stability to the Western Balkans.

That argument is debatable—and the record of the Kosovar government suggests that it is wrong. But the US position is unambiguously misguided in not foreseeing that the "Kosovo precedent" will incite instability—and, potentially, even violence elsewhere.

Why the rush to give Kosovo independence? Many serious disputes have gone unresolved for decades. The Kashmir question has lingered since 1947, the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus since 1974 and Israel's occupation of the West Bank since 1967. Yet no one is suggesting that unilateral solutions be imposed in these potential flashpoints.

Nevertheless, the United States and most European Union members argue that Kosovo's situation is *sui generis* and will set no legally binding international precedent. But Russia sees things very differently. Indeed, it may seek to use this precedent to reestablish its authority over the nations and territories that were once part of the Soviet Union.

Spain and Cyprus, faced with secessionist-minded regions, are worried by any possible precedent. Romania fears the fallout from Kosovo's unilaterally gaining independence on neighboring Moldova—Russia may unilaterally recognize the breakaway Moldovan territory of Transdnistria, which Russian troops and criminal gangs have been propping up for 16 years.

Ukraine—the great prize in Russia's bid to recapture its former sphere of influence—is also deeply anxious. It fears Russia will encourage separatist tendencies in Crimea where the ethnic Russian population forms a majority. (Crimea was ceded to Ukraine by Nikita Khrushchev only in 1954). Russia may decide to abuse the Kosovo precedent further to divide Ukraine's population—between Russian speakers and Ukrainian speakers.

But the biggest risks posed by a unilateral recognition of Kosovo's independence are in the South Caucasus, a region that abuts the tinderbox of today's Middle East. Here, there is a real danger that Russia may recognize breakaway regions—and back them more strongly than it does now.

Even before Vladimir Putin became Russia's president, the Kremlin was making mischief in Georgia, issuing Russian passports to citizens of Abkhazia (the largest breakaway region) and pouring money into its economy. Russia's supposed "peacekeeping troops" in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Georgia's other secession-minded region, have in fact protected their rebel governments. Russia has also been enforcing a complete trade embargo on Georgia in the hope of weakening the resolve of its pro-Western president, Mikhail Saakashvili.

Should Russia recognize Abkhazia's independence, Saakashvili might be tempted to respond militarily to prevent his country from unraveling. Renewed conflict in Abkhazia would not only bring the risk of open warfare with Russia, but strain relations with Armenia, as there are around 50,000 Armenians in Abkhazia who support the breakaway government.

Another risk in the South Caucasus is that Russia (with Armenian support) may recognize Nagorno-Karabakh's self-proclaimed independence from Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh, historically Armenian, endured a bloody secessionist war between 1988 and 1994, with 30,000 killed and 14 percent of Azerbaijan's territory occupied by Russian-backed Armenian forces.

Since then, oil has fueled an Azeri military buildup. So the government in Baku is far more prepared to respond to renewed warfare than it was in the 1990s. Moreover, it has neighboring Turkey on its side. Turkey is already enforcing a punitive economic embargo on Armenia, including closure of its border.

Military projections by the United States have repeatedly suggested that Azerbaijan would lose such a battle, even with newly purchased equipment and Turkish military support. Armenian forces are well dug in and have received a significant boost from Russia's diversion of heavy weaponry from some recently closed Georgian military bases.

Iran also must be factored into this equation, as it is becoming a strategic investor by building an oil refinery just across its border in Armenia, partly as a security measure in case of a US attack and partly to relieve its petrol shortages. Moreover, Iran remains eager to contain Azerbaijani revanchist claims over the large Azeri minority in northern Iran.

The conflicts in Transdnistria and the South Caucasus are usually called "frozen conflicts," because not much has happened since they began in the early 1990s. Any unilateral move to give Kosovo its independence is likely to "unfreeze" them—fast and bloodily. And such potential bloodshed on Russia's border may give Vladimir Putin the pretext he may desire to extend his rule beyond its constitutionally mandated end next March.

Project Syndicate

Charles Tannock is a member of the European Parliament, where he is spokesman on foreign affairs for the British Conservative Party.

Assuming that

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THE ABC'S OF ZTE ARE NOW COMMON COFFEE-SHOP conversation. But the ZTE contract is not the only multibillion-peso government initiative under the media spotlight. Last Monday, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus defended the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project (CEP) of the Department of Education.

Using satellites, the CEP will beam educational services to 90 percent of public elementary and secondary schools throughout the country or 37,794 schools, linking them to a nationwide network. The satellite network will provide 12 video channels, wireless wide area networking, local area networking and wireless Internet connection. It will be financed through a P22.77-billion loan from China, amounting to 86 percent of the project. The remaining P3.71 billion, or 14 percent, will be financed by the Philippine government.

Lapus claimed that all fears over the CEP project are due to controversies surrounding the $329-million national broadband network deal of the Philippine government and the Chinese government-owned ZTE Corp. Lapus said the CEP had not been finalized.

The CEP is different, has nothing to do with the ZTE, he said. The only similarity is that the deal is similar to the ZTE package, and that it's being brokered with China. On Tuesday, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said that he doesn't understand the uproar over both the NBN and CEP deals. After all, "no contract" existed.

Favila called the signed agreement between China and the Philippines a Memorandum of Understanding. "Memorandum of understanding, or misunderstanding, it depends on how you look at it. Meaning, with the Chinese and other nationalities, you can lose things in translation," the charming secretary even tried his hand at humor. "So my joke there is either an MOU or a MOMU," he said, meaning "ghost" in Filipino.

The contract, or memorandum of agreement, or memorandum of understanding, or whatever Favila and Sergio Apostol, President Macapagal-Arroyo's legal adviser, would have it called, did pull a Casper on April 21. Copies of the $329-million ZTE and $460-million CEP contracts were reportedly stolen in Boao, China, the day they were signed.

"Somebody has stolen it—(all) two copies," said Apostol. "So there's no contract. We don't know what kind of contract it is." The deal, he said, did not pass through Malacañang because it was lost.

The public, naturally, only has his word for it, and there is no Jose "Joey" de Venecia III to point fingers and claim bribery, corruption and overpricing. The gentlemen defending the CEP appear to believe that for as long as no contract "exists," CEP is a non-issue.

Let us assume, for argument's sake, that the entire deal, as Secretary Lapus claimed, is above board and legal. Let us assume that there is no contract yet. And let us assume, although it flies in the face of current realities, that the gentlemen involved are men of unimpeachable character, and that all they care about, in their heart of hearts, are the best interests of the Filipino people. The question that must be asked is the same question that Sen. Mar Roxas asked of the ZTE deal. Is the Cyber Education Project necessary?

That education must be dealt with, and immediately, is not the debate. The CEP cannot be equated to education, it is a possible solution, and as such must respond to existing problems.

Let us concede that the problem exists. A Trends in International Mathematics and Science study ranks Filipino students at 41st in a field of 45 in Science, and 42nd in Math. A recent Unesco report ranked the Philippines 74th in terms of the Education Development Index, far below Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China. Both the National Elementary Achievement Test and National Secondary Achievement Test demonstrate how students could correctly answer less than 50 percent of exam questions.

Fifteen years ago, a congressional commission identified the need to stress basic public education, because it was the only formal schooling the majority of Filipinos were able to get. As of this year, there is a shortage of some 41,000 classrooms, requiring roughly P16 billion. That does not include the salaries of teachers; neither does it include the necessary teacher training in a country where even teachers admit they feel they are unable to teach basic English to students. At the moment, the student-teacher ratio is the worst in the region. The Philippines has an average class size of 43.9 students in public elementary schools, and 56.1 in public high schools.

The CEP proposes to deliver education through the sophisticated mechanisms of satellites, television and computers to Filipino classrooms. Without the classrooms, without the teachers, without the electric sockets to plug in the thousands of computers and televisions that have to be bought on taxpayers' money, the CEP proposal appears to be crafted for an entirely different country.

At the moment, 51 percent of Filipinos have had only elementary education. Only 14.3 percent of rural poor Filipinos graduate from high school or have higher educational attainment. Even with multilateral and bilateral institutions pouring in millions into textbook development, stories of defective and substandard textbooks have made it into the news. It is patently obvious that reforms are necessary in many areas of public education—and investment in satellite technology is not only unsuited to the problem, it will be done at the expense of thousands of students possibly going to new classrooms. Not to mention the effectiveness of the program—how can computers and televisions be effective teachers to a class of 50, especially if real teachers are either unable or not present to apply television lessons to the individual difficulties of students?

Let us assume that the current administration sincerely wants to fulfill its constitutional duty to provide quality education. Let us assume that this deal, proposal, contract, memorandum, or whatever they want to call it, is not just another avenue for corruption. Let us assume a revolutionary new concept: that this government is in service of the Filipino. Granting all these assumptions, given the situation, it appears that the men who put together the CEP are, scientifically speaking, idiots.

And these are the men who will decide on the education of the next generation of Filipinos.

Erratum

The second sentence of the first paragraph in Randy David's Sept. 22 column titled "Martial law revisited" originally read: "Proclamation 1081 ushered ..." After scanning Google, the Opinion desk replaced "Proclamation" with "Presidential Decree."

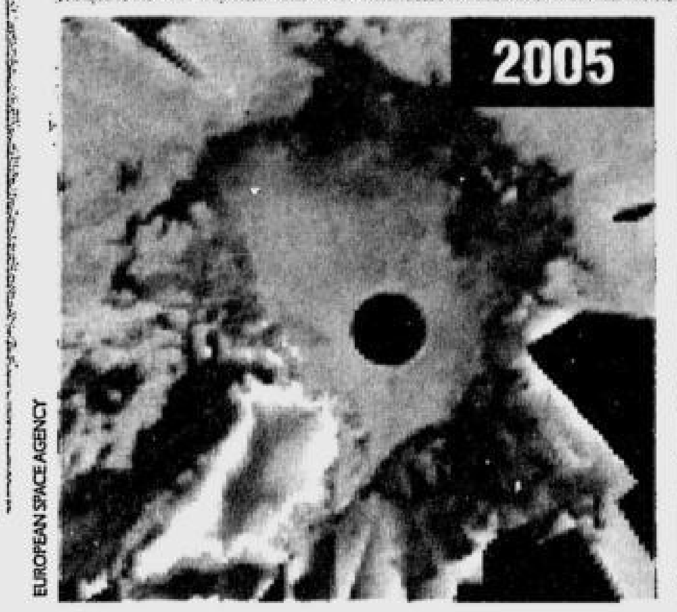
"[A] common mistake. Proclamation 1081 was the source and mother of all PDs. It wasn't itself a presidential decree. In fact, PD 1 was the reorganization of the whole government following the promulgation of Proclamation 1081. We can't allow Google to replace memory," says Professor David. Point well taken. Our apologies.—Ed.

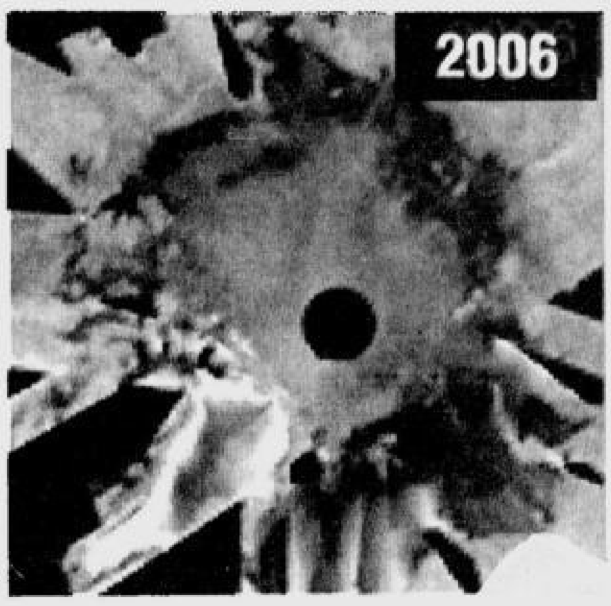
TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

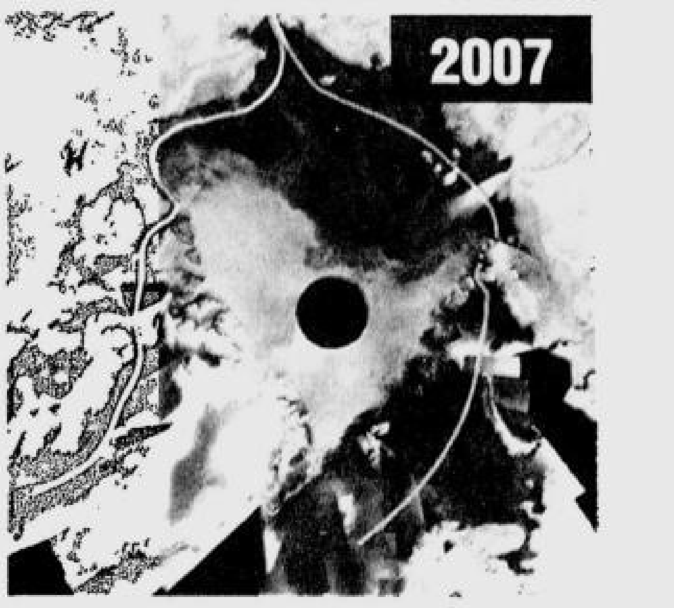
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Mosaic of satellite images of the Arctic

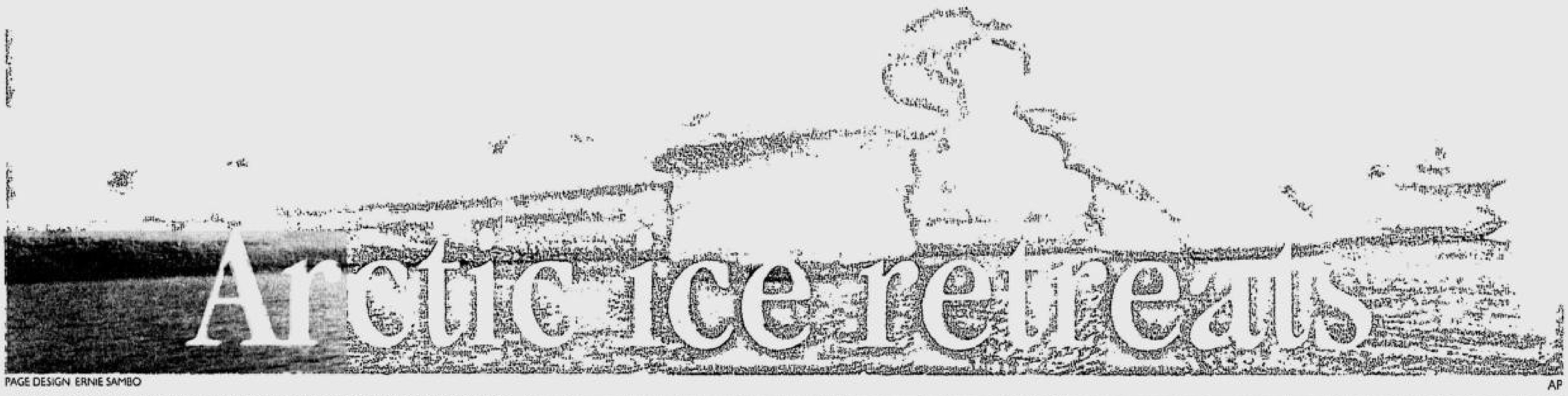




THE NORTHWEST Passage, the dreamed-of-yet historically impassable maritime shortcut between Europe and Asia, has now fully opened up due to record shrinkage of Arctic sea ice. The European Space Agency released a mosaic of images, taken early September by a radar aboard its Envirsat satellite, which showed that ice retreat in the Arctic had reached record levels since satellite monitoring began in 1978. The most direct route of the Northwest Passage is indicated by the yellow line and the direct route of the Northeast Passage, which is partially blocked, is indicated by the blue line.



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY



Arctic ice retreats

PAGE DESIGN ERNIE SAMBO

AP

ICE COVER IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN HAS RECEDED TO its lowest level since satellite monitoring began 30 years ago. Arctic sea ice has lost more than 1.2 million square kilometers, or the size of South Africa, over the past two years, according to the US National Snow and Ice Data Center.

The retreating ice is believed to be caused by the warming of the planet due to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity.

The rapid melting of ice threatens the livelihood of people and wildlife such as polar bears. Some four million people, including 150,000 Inuit, live in the Arctic Circle.

But the melting ice could open opportunities, including a shortcut for commercial ships between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Already, some ships have breezed through the 5,100-km Northwest Passage in weeks instead of years, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

A thawing Arctic, however, may increase tension among five countries (Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway), which have competing claims to the North Pole. A quarter of the world's undiscovered oil and gas resources lie in the Arctic, according to the US Geological Survey.

By Jamey Keaten

PARIS—ARCTIC ICE HAS SHRUNK TO THE lowest level on record, new satellite images show, raising the possibility that the Northwest Passage that eluded famous explorers will become an open shipping lane.

The European Space Agency (ESA) said nearly 200 satellite photos taken this month showed an ice-free passage along northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland, and ice retreating to its lowest level since such images were first taken in 1978.

The waters are exposing unexplored resources, and vessels could trim thousands of kilometers off the sea journey from Europe to Asia by bypassing the Panama Canal.

Summer window

The seasonal ebb and flow of ice levels has already opened up a slim summer window in which some ships can pass through.

Leif Toudal Pedersen of the Danish National Space Center said that Arctic ice had shrunk to some 3 million square kilometers, or 1.16 million square miles. The previous low was 4 million square kilometers, or 1.54 million square miles, in 2005.

"The strong reduction in just one year certainly raises flags that the ice (in summer) may disappear much sooner than expected," Pedersen said in an ESA statement posted on its website on Sept. 14.

Extreme drop

On average, the ice retreated by about 100,000 square kilometers—38,610 square miles—per year over the last decade, "so a drop of 1 million square kilometers (390,000 square miles) in just one year is extreme," Pedersen said.

Pedersen said the extreme retreat this year suggested the passage could fully open sooner than expected—but ESA did not say when that might be.

A UN panel on climate change has predicted that polar regions could be virtually free of ice by the summer of 2070 because of rising temperatures and sea ice decline, ESA noted.

Race for oil

Russia, Norway, Denmark, Canada and the United States are among countries in a race to secure rights to the Arctic that heated up last month when Russia sent two small submarines to plant its national flag under the North Pole.

A US study has suggested as much as 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas could be hidden in the area.

Environmentalists fear increased maritime traffic and efforts to tap natural resources in the area could one day lead to oil spills and harm regional wildlife.

Symbolic

Until now, the passage has been expected to remain closed even during reduced ice cover by multiyear ice pack—sea ice that remains through one or more summers, ESA said.

Researcher Claes Ragner of Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute, which works on Arctic environmental and political issues, said that, for the time being, the new opening has only symbolic meaning for the future of sea transport.

"Routes between Scandinavia and Japan could be almost halved, and a stable and reliable route would mean a lot to certain regions," he said by phone. But even if the passage is opening up and polar ice continues to melt, it will take years for such routes to be regular, he said.

"It won't be ice-free all year around and it won't be a stable route all year," Ragner said. "The greatest wish for sea transportation is streamlined and stable routes."

"Shorter transport routes means less pollution if you can ship products from A to B on the shortest route," he said, "but the fact that the polar ice is melting away is not good for the world in that we're losing the Arctic and the animal life there."

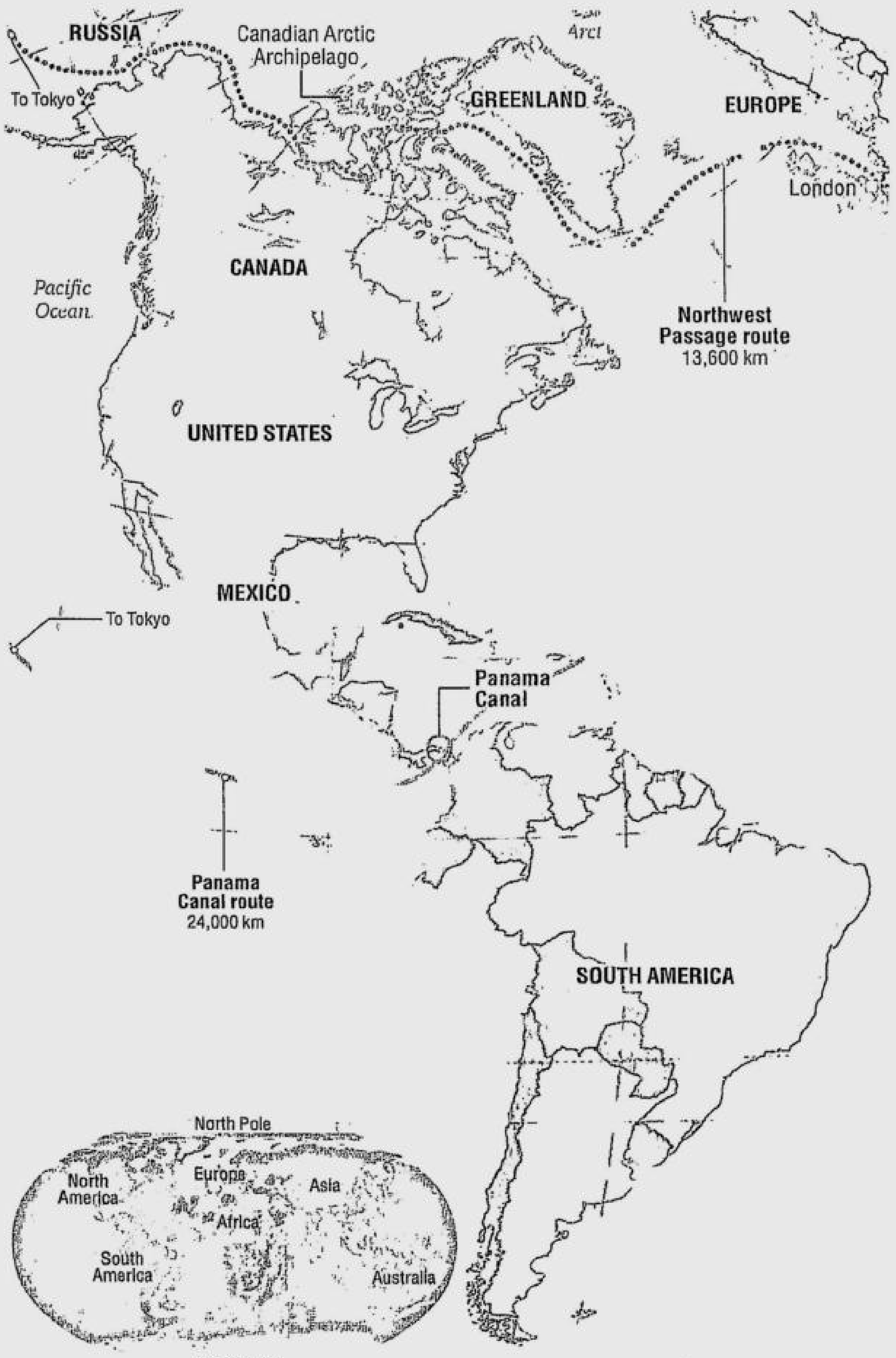
The opening observed this month was not the most direct waterway, ESA said. That would be through northern Canada along the coast of Siberia, which remains partially blocked.

(Jamey Keaten is an Associated Press writer. Louise Nordstrom in Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this report.)

Route could vastly trim shipping distance

Experts believe global warming has melted Arctic ice, allowing the opening of the Northwest Passage sooner than expected. It could trim thousands of kilometers of shipping from Europe to Asia compared with the current route through the Panama Canal.

AP



Source: National Oceanic and Athmosperic Administration; ESRI

INQGRAPHIC: Ernie Sambo

Maritime shortcut

Panama Canal

The 80-km long canal is a major ship passageway that traverses the Isthmus of Panama in Central America and connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. More than 80,000 people were involved in the construction of the canal, one of the biggest engineering efforts in history. It is estimated that more than 30,000 lives were lost (mostly from H-Fever and malaria) in the process.

Officially opened in August 1914, construction of the canal first began in 1880 and was overseen by a private French firm. However, after struggling with finances and technology, the French abandoned the effort and sold their rights and equipment to the United States, which continued the construction in the early 1900s until the canal was finally opened about a decade later with the transit of the *SS Ancon*.

Today, the Panama Canal remains to be a key passageway for international shipping. A ship traveling from New York to San Francisco can save more than 12,480 km using the Panama Canal instead of going around South America. The average time spent in transit from port to port is approximately 8 to 10 hours.

Suez Canal

The 160-km long Suez Canal runs across the Isthmus of Suez in northeastern Egypt. The canal connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, and is used extensively today as the fastest way to cross from the Atlantic ocean to the Indian ocean.

Construction efforts for the Suez Canal began in April 1859. The canal, which was built by Frenchman Ferdinand de Lesseps, was opened to traffic a decade later, in November 1869, through the efforts of thousands of Egyptian laborers. It is estimated that more than 100,00 workers died while building the canal.

In the Philippines, the opening of the Suez Canal contributed to the rise of the *Ilustrado* class, as the canal cut travel time to Spain and more Filipinos, including national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, were able to travel to Europe for education.

The opening of the canal also facilitated the flow of "modern ideas of liberty" into the country.

Today, around 7.5 percent of the world's sea trade is carried via the canal. In 2005, over 18,000 vessels passed through the Suez.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

GMA suspends $329-M NBN deal indefinitely

From page A1

dered the suspension of the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project, which, like the scandal-ridden ZTE deal, was also allegedly overpriced.

He and Devanadera said the suspensions were made because of the controversy surrounding the ZTE deal.

Mendoza recommended it

In a statement, Mendoza said he had recommended the suspension of the deal with ZTE to Ms Arroyo.

He said he was prompted to make the recommendation in light of "persistent information" received by the Department of Transportation and Communications that the controversy surrounding the deal would be "exploited by enemies of the state" to "destabilize" the Arroyo administration.

(Also yesterday, Speaker Jose de Venecia claims that it was he who had been asking the President to shelve the NBN deal. Story on Page A4.)

In an interview, Mendoza said it was DOTC practice to conduct risk assessments to protect vital transportation and communication facilities such as airports, seaports and communication towers.

"We are prepared," he said.

Mendoza stressed that his recommendation did not mean he had changed his position that the project would "benefit our people and aid the government's efforts to push our social and economic development."

"I am happy that the President has considered my recommendation, which I made in the interest of our people," he said.

This was apparently unknown to Favila.

It was President's decision

Asked at the press conference if Mendoza had agreed with the suspension, Favila said: "The President made the decision, and when the President makes the decision, no ifs, no buts."

To the question of why it was he who made the announcement, he said he was handling the issue at the "ministerial level" with China.

Invoking "executive privilege," Favila refused to say when the President decided to suspend the project.

Friday-night decision

But Sergio Apostol, the President's chief legal adviser, told the INQUIRER on the phone that Ms Arroyo made the decision on Friday night and told Favila to relay it to the public the following day.

Asked if the President's move would defuse the politically charged atmosphere, Apostol said: "All's well that ends well."

He said it would "temper all sides—Malacañang, De Venecia and the Senate."

Asked further if the suspension was a prelude to the cancellation of the deal, Apostol said: "That's just temporary. Suppose the Supreme Court will rule that it's valid? It will be implemented. So we will wait for the Supreme Court's decision."

Favila is 'Chinaman'

Favila—who had described himself as the "Chinaman" responsible for taking care of the Philippines' diplomatic and economic relations with the world's fastest growing economy—was at a loss when asked whether the ZTE project would be revived or eventually canceled.

Asked what the ultimate fate of the project would be, he threw his hands up in the air and said: "I don't know how to further define what the word 'suspension' means to you."

Asked the same question, Devanadera said: "It's up to the President."

But according to a source in Malacañang, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he lacked authority, the ZTE deal was effectively cancelled because it had become "too hot to handle."

Deemed a wise move

Apostol said Ms Arroyo had deemed it wise to suspend the project.

"There is a pending case in the Supreme Court, an Ombudsman case versus Mendoza, legislative ... and even a congressional investigation. [The suspension] will allow investigations to proceed, so that whatever will be the outcome, the executive will follow," he said.

Apostol said the President could suspend the project. In the first place, he said, "the contract is not ready for implementation because there's no loan agreement; so there's no executive agreement yet."

Mendoza will follow order

He also said Mendoza would "follow the order."

"In fact," Apostol said, "he was the one saying that there is no executive agreement yet because there is no loan agreement."

Apostol said Malacañang was not worried that the suspension of the deal would damage relations with China.

"No *naman*. China also knows that the contract can't be implemented [because there's no] executive agreement and because of the failure of the loan agreement," he said.

In a text message, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said that on Ms Arroyo's instruction, Favila had conveyed to Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai "the government's desire to suspend the implementation of the broadband deal."

According to Remonde, Bo "said his government understands and respects the decision of President Arroyo and will continue to support her and her programs."

China 'understands'

Favila himself said that while the project, to be financed by a $400-million loan from the China Export-Import Bank, was deemed of "strategic importance" to RP-China relations, the Chinese officials understood Ms Arroyo's decision and agreed with it.

He said the suspension would not sour relations with China.

With the INQUIRER and ABS-CBN reporters the first to catch him at the hotel lobby, Favila asked for a few minutes before making his announcement, saying he was still waiting for "one last call from Beijing."

He said he was able to get hold of a Chinese official who relayed Ms Arroyo's decision to Bo. But he said he received reassuring words from Chinese officials on Friday night.

Asked what assurance he gave to the Chinese officials, Favila said: "An assurance arrived at by Mr. Bo Xilai and I to further strengthen our bilateral relations.

"I had to do a lot of back-channeling quietly. Last night I received information from Beijing authorities that they will [give] continuing support and belief in President Arroyo. They would like to continue helping her government. They have acceded to, or agreed to, our calls for a suspension of this project."

Not as simple as that

Asked why the project was not just cancelled altogether, Favila said: "It's not as simple as canceling something viewed as strategically important to our bilateral relations. Here is the Chinese government which had offered to help the President... They believe in the leadership of the President... They are the ones helping us, but we created our own problem here."

Favila chided the people who had "made trouble" for the NBN project.

He added: "The Chinese government has given this project a high consideration... This has been strategically important in our bilateral relations with China. In spite of this, [because of] the complaints, attacks, criticisms and controversies accompanying this broadband project, it was not as simple as a lot of people think it is.

"We probably need more time to [explain] the processes. In spite of all explanations, many sectors still need clarification, and I think it is the best thing to do, and the President gave me the instruction to suspend it."

Devanadera said the suspension was prompted by the "many commentaries from different sectors."

She said that after reviewing the processes that had led to the awarding of the contract to ZTE, her office found that "the processes undertaken by Secretary Mendoza are ... aboveboard."

'No coverup'

Favila and Devanadera denied that the suspension was meant to cover up the controversy, or take the heat off the President's husband, or Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, whom Joey de Venecia had accused of brokering the deal and attempting to bribe him.

Abalos has denied the allegations.

"I find it funny to even have that conclusion," Favila said.

Said Devanadera: "We should not say that just because the President made the decision to suspend, it is a coverup. It cannot be a coverup because we have all the institutions to ventilate these issues."

She also said there could be no coverup because the allegations of bribery had been brought before the Ombudsman. (Rep. Carlos Padilla filed a graft case against Mendoza and other officials involved in the deal.)

"As for constitutional officers, we have heard this talk that they will file an impeachment [case against Abalos]," she said.

Devanadera also said Ms Arroyo's decision to suspend the ZTE deal had nothing to do with the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order on it.

"I would not want to make a connection between the President's decision and the developments in Congress or the Senate or in the Supreme Court. [Ms Arroyo] has an appreciation of many things affecting this issue," Devanadera said.

She said the case in the high court would continue because "it has a life of its own."

Senate probe

As for the Senate inquiry, Devanadera expressed her belief that there was no more need for it. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"It's not our call, it's their call," she said.

But she added: "I don't know, because from the discussions [in the Senate] last week, during the seven-hour hearing, everything was explained. What more can they ask when everything has been answered and explained? It's my personal opinion that everything has been covered."

Said Favila: "I will respect what the Senate will do." ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Tony S. Bergonia***

ZTE 'utterly disappointed'

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED last night, China's ZTE Corp said:

"ZTE is utterly disappointed with the press statement of Secretary Peter Favila that the Philippine government will suspend the NBN project pending investigation.

"Nonetheless, ZTE would like to make clear that it welcomes any fair investigation of the NBN project and all the proposals that were submitted for it.

"ZTE is confident that the investigation will eventually clear its good name and reveal that ZTE's proposal is, in fact, superior and the most cost-efficient as well as the most advantageous to the Philippine government and, most importantly, to the Filipino people."

School rises from the ashes of Pinatubo

From page A1

mained for months. Classes shut down most days.

Riots between fraternities and gangs were not unusual. Drug pushers and dealers lurked.

Because teachers were often nowhere to be found, the quality of education deteriorated.

"Morale was low. Most students could not read or could not comprehend what they were reading," says Macaspac.

Lighting a candle

Happily, all those things are now distant memories.

In the five years since she took the helm, Macaspac has worked miracles at the school that has become pretty much like the Sphinx risen from the ashes.

Instead of cursing the darkness, Macaspac lit a candle.

She had been aware of all the bad things happening at PHS. She had been a teacher there for nine years. She had left to become regional to supervisor in the Department of Education (DepEd).

"I saw a lot of schools and began to realize how disheartening the state of our own school was at the time," she says.

Upon the retirement of the principal, she applied for the post, got it and set out to do what she thought was best under the circumstances.

Funding problem

PHS, which was established in 1908, boasts of having produced some of the nation's leading lights like President Diosdado Macapagal and Supreme Court Justice Jose Gutierrez David, before it fell on bad times as the country's education system deteriorated during the martial law years under the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

A major problem was funding—a recurring lament blamed for the general breakdown of the past three decades.

From the DepEd, Macaspac could only get a P5 million annual outlay for maintenance and operating expenses—barely enough to pay electric and water bills, among many other things.

She figured that if she could show concrete improvements, take responsibility for the projects and account for funds, money should be no problem.

Principal as CEO

In 2001, the Basic Education Act was promulgated, decreeing wide-ranging reforms that included decentralization and the empowerment of principals in the same fashion as CEOs of business firms.

Drawing from this mandate, Macaspac set out to rehabilitate her school.

She met with parents, alumni, community leaders and local officials and outlined a program to raise funds to rehabilitate the school.

She also wrote letters, including one to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who immediately responded with a P22-million donation that was used to raise the school grounds one meter to prevent flooding and to construct a drainage system. Through the years, Ms Arroyo has contributed a total of P33.5 million.

Cash donations came from businessmen, companies, the Chinese-Filipino community, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, community leaders and politicians, along with a large number of sympathetic alumni in the country and abroad, particularly in the United States.

Brigada Eskuela

Members of Brigada Eskuela—a nationwide DepEd initiative to mobilize parents, teachers and community leaders to improve facilities—helped in repairing buildings and cleaning the school.

Five toilets were constructed, a cooperative now runs the canteen and a security force keeps away drug dealers and troublemakers.

Macaspac says students are also being taught vocational skills so they can get jobs if they are unable to proceed to college.

There are two computer laboratories with around 50 PCs where students are allowed to surf the 'Net and also learn computer repair. There's an automotive shop and a culinary arts kitchen, a beauty salon. Basic agriculture and tilapia culture are also taught.

Teacher training is a priority. Attendance at workshops and seminars is a must for Macaspac's faculty.

Academic proficiency

Macaspac has begun to raise the students' academic proficiency. She says that in last year's National Achievement Tests, her students' mean score was 47.58 percent, an improvement over the previous year's 36.4 percent. Her target is 75 percent by 2010.

Substantial support comes from San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, 61, an alumnus who himself has actively espoused the education cause since his election in 2004 after four terms as a congressman.

Last year, Rodriguez secured a P100-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines to be paid out of the Special Education Fund (SEF) that allocates 1 percent of real estate taxes for school expenses.

With the money, Rodriguez constructed two-story school buildings in 33 of the 35 barangays in San Fernando.

He is also providing scholarship grants to 9,000 needy students—P4,000 in food and transport allowances—to arrest the high dropout rate of students who used to attend classes on an empty stomach.

Spending per student

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has pointed out that the Philippines spends only P6,354 per student, compared to the equivalent of P47,700 in Thailand, P56,846 in Malaysia, P123,200 in the United States and P293,440 in Japan.

The Philippines has a student population of around 20 million.

Lapus, who became education secretary a year ago, says that with a high birth rate that annually sends 300,000 new students to primary school, the annual budget is not good for long-term planning.

This is the main cause of the disaster in education, academics say, one that engulfs Filipinos in a poverty trap.

For the poor of San Fernando, Rodriguez says the only way up is quality education.

"We are giving them all the opportunity to rise from the morass. The key is a good education," he says.

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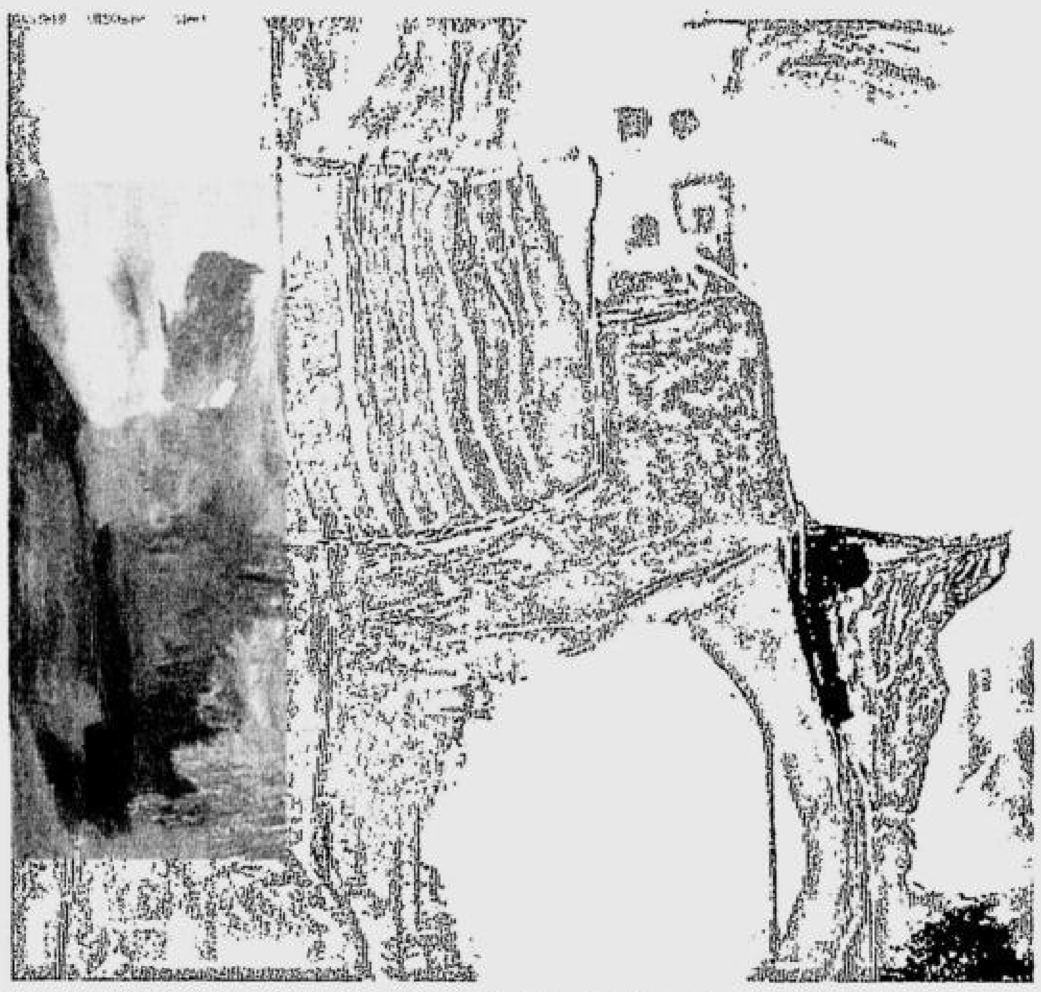


ONE OF the paintings of Edwin Jumalon, a 44x41-inch oil on canvas titled "Red Highway."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By Bendix M. Fernandez
Contributor

> *"It is the pervading law of all things organic and inorganic ...*
>
> *That form ever follows function. This is the law."*

THE PHRASE IS DISTILLED wisdom from the American architectural giant, Louis Sullivan, who developed the shape of the tall steel skyscraper in late 19th century. The credo flourished under Frank Lloyd Wright, who later became one of the world's most influential architects.

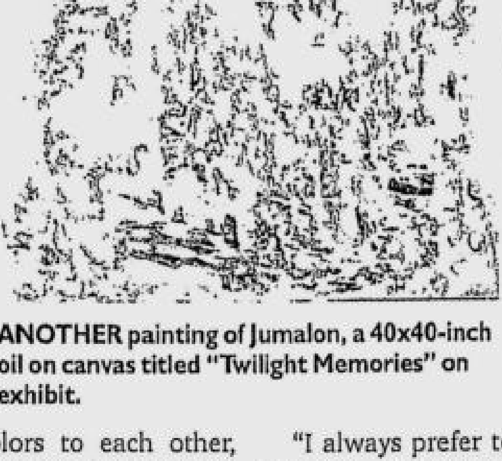
· REVIEW

It is interesting to find this famous dictum echoed and defied in the title of Edwin Jumalon's latest art exhibit, "Form Follows Man." It is equally interesting to note that Jumalon is an engineer who has supervised building projects before and who has decided to devote all of his time to visual art.

Opening on Sept. 5 at the Gallery of the Peninsula and the Archipelago, under the auspices of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University, the exhibit sheds light on the artist's current preoccupations.

The works, like Jumalon's past forays into abstraction, reflect the handling of paint regardless of any conscious motive or purpose. The artist confirms as much: "I had no preconceived plans of the outcome, save to paint something. Leaning solely on inspiration, there is the assurance that everything comes into place."

A lot of notable painters in history, among them Paul Klee, have taken this approach—that an artist cannot plan his work but must let it grow on its own. Jumalon's works begin with him relating lines, shapes, and colors to each other, adding a form that has "behaved properly," putting in shapes that "have been waiting in line."



ANOTHER painting of Jumalon, a 40x40-inch oil on canvas titled "Twilight Memories" on exhibit.

Hearing the artist speak about the process, one gets the feeling that these works come into their own. The ancients spoke of it as "divine madness." Jumalon speaks of it as "the laughing freedom of the artist's hand."

And what has that hand wrought?

Most of the paintings show indistinct forms enveloped by a mist of color. One comes to them like a traveler seeing a city emerging from the fog. In "Ephemera," one seems to be looking at an achingly familiar skyline, the tops of buildings shrouded by a blue and violet sky silhouetted by moonlight.

In three of his works, titled "Stasis 1," "Stasis 2" and "Suspended Disbelief," one is peering through an enveloping haze at tenement buildings where light from the windows seeps through and hint at the warmth beyond. These works are composed of a series of overlapping and predominantly blue rectangular fields bathed in more somber colors.

In "Gypsy Moon," the fog is lifted, red windows shine brightly, and the architectural shapes grow more distinct. In "The City," one even seems to be gazing at orderly city blocks from a bird's eye view; one fancies seeing entire roads and drives scratched out by that "laughing hand."

In "Red Highway" and "Pendulum," that hand seems to grow bolder and more playful, and one is taken out of any recognizable representation entirely and thrust into a world of organic forms that bump and clash with one another like cancer cells run amok.

All these thoughts are grounded on this particular viewer's own struggle to coalesce these abstract images into concrete impressions. The completed artworks remain as nonrepresentational works, Jumalon maintains, not intended to symbolize anything from the real world.

"Much like my previous abstract work, they are not intended to prove anything, not to search for anything. Who said, "I don't seek. I find?" (That would be Picasso, who further teased viewers struggling mightily to understand art by saying: Why not try to understand the song of a bird?)

However devoid of any conscious purpose the artist might purport his works to be, one sees glimmers of what the unconscious might intend. Through relating disparate shapes and colors, the series seems to compose a coda to Jumalon's past preoccupations with architectural plans and structures.

The artist might not have had any preconceived notions of where this series might take him; but he certainly recognizes post-work patterns and angles his conceptual framework accordingly. Thus, his realization of what his works may hint at through the titles of his paintings and the exhibit itself.

About his own brush with Frank Lloyd Wright's famous saying, Jumalon tells this anecdote:

"I always prefer to make a straight line crooked—a perceptual reaction to my failing my Drawing 1 subject as a freshman engineering student. My teacher, a good architect, just did what was to be done: fail the student who voluntarily rejects the compass and ruler in favor of the more whimsical freehand. It was from my architect teacher that I first heard of Wright's famous dictum 'Form follows function.' She stressed it to our class like John 3:16."

"Form Follows Man" is his rejoinder to Wright, to that instructor, to the dictate which states that everything must be predicated on its intended purpose. It is anchored on a belief that art was not meant for any particular function—not to teach, not to tell a story, not to serve as a mental exercise, not to impart a moral—but exists for its own sake. Art that should always bend its will to the laughing hand ... that does whatever it wills.

"Form Follows Man" is on exhibit until Oct. 3. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m Mondays to Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday. For inquiries, contact 09274408486 or 09172448877.

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Baguio Korean schools in hot water

BAGUIO CITY—SEVERAL KOREAN-RUN SCHOOLS here are in hot water for alleged violations of labor laws and for their owners' failure to comply with requirements to operate, an official of the Department of Labor and Employment in the Cordillera said.

Ana Dione, DOLE regional director, told a city council session this week that of the 55 Korean-run language schools here, only 37 have been accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Pittance wages

Dione said her agency has inspected 31 English language schools and discovered that seven of these were not paying their employees properly.

Dione said these schools pay their English teachers only between P50 and P55 an hour, lower than the P60 an hour minimum wage for tutors.

She said many schools also ask their teachers to work beyond the standard four hours daily workload.

Dione said aside from low wages, most violations of Korean-run schools involved the owners' failure to release the full 13th month pay of their employees and non-payment of the Social Security System and Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) premiums, among others.

Probe

She said school owners have been called to a hearing to discuss the problem. The DOLE, she said, has conducted three hearings since July.

Dione, however, clarified that they could not order the closure of these schools because violations of labor laws are "not bases for closure."

"Compliance *ang sa amin, eh* (We just ensure that these schools comply with the requirements)," she said.

She said many of these foreign schools use only business permits to operate and have not been accredited by Tesda.

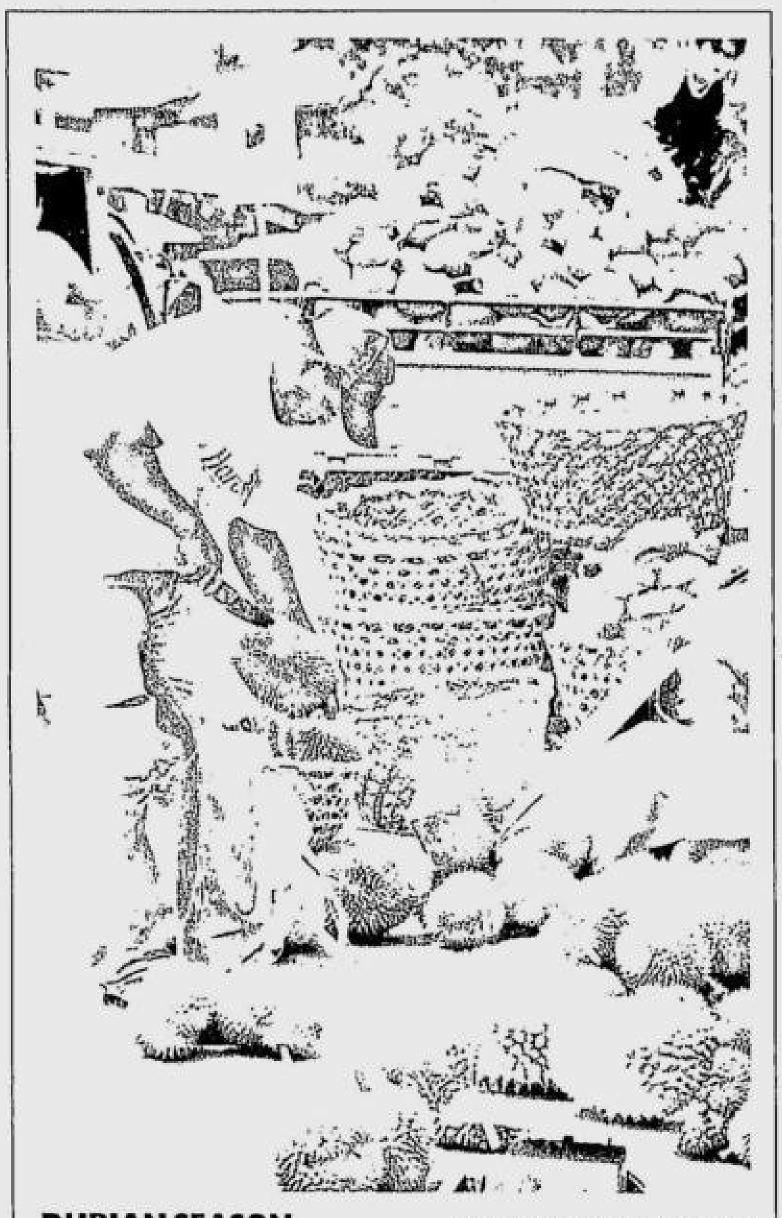
Felina Carag, Tesda director for Baguio and Benguet, said foreign schools are required to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission and get Tesda accreditation.

Openness

These schools, Caraga said, should also spell out their programs, reveal the shares of their foreign partners and submit a copy of the curriculum and business permit, among others.

Virginia Akiate, a representative of the Commission on Higher Education, told the council that foreign schools operating in the country should also have a student population that is predominantly Filipino.

"They should have more Filipino students. Not more than a third of the school population should be foreign students," she said. *Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



DURIAN SEASON BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO
A man checks durian unloaded from a delivery truck as Davao City continues to be flooded with the stinky but delicious fruit.

Malaysian execs see peace pact

COTABATO CITY—TWO MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS, including the new head of the International Monitoring Team (IMT), yesterday predicted that a final ceasefire agreement could be signed between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front this year.

Malaysian Army Brig. Gen. Yasin bin Mat Daud formally replaced Brig. Gen. Ismael bin Ahmad Khan as IMT head on Friday.

"I am optimistic that a final peace agreement will be achieved before the year ends," Yasin said.

He said the atmosphere is now conducive for signing a peace deal because the ceasefire agreement has been very effective.

"The time is ripe for both negotiating panels to come into a peace agreement with finality. Let's hope and pray," Yasin said during ceremonies marking his entry to the IMT. *Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Bridge collapse injures 10 people

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A concrete bridge in Sipalay City, 178.4 km south of here, collapsed Friday, causing a truck to fall into the river.

Sipalay City Mayor Soledad Montilla said the truck's 10 passengers suffered bruises.

Montilla said she had been asking the national government to help repair the 50-year-old bridge, which connected Barangays Gil Montilla and Nauhang.

She said a new bridge between the two barangays would cost about P10 million. Since the bridge was destroyed, Montilla said, travel to Barangay Nauhang would be more difficult.

Before the bridge collapsed, only light vehicles were allowed to use it due to its fragile state.

But businessman Bing Trecho, who had leased the truck to deliver cargo to Negros Oriental, said there was no notice placed before the bridge that trucks were not allowed to pass through the bridge.

Trecho claimed that trucks have been using the bridge.

Board votes in favor of mayors vs Panlilio

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Pampanga Mayors' League has won the first round against Gov. Eddie Panlilio as the provincial board, with a 10-0 vote, approved on Friday an ordinance that gave mayors bigger regulatory powers over the province's multimillion-peso quarry industry.

Reached by phone from Cebu City, Panlilio told the INQUIRER he would "veto [Ordinance No. 172] to uphold public interests."

"Several provisions violate existing laws. It is not totally lawful," said Panlilio. "We would take this all the way up to the court, if necessary."

Apart from giving mayors a bigger role in the quarry industry, the ordinance increased revenue shares for towns and villages and abolished the provincial capitol's P150 administrative fee for every truckload of sand hauled out of Pampanga.

Board Members Crisostomo Garbo, Tarcicio Halili, Catalina Bagasina, Ceferino Laus, Arthur Salalila, Edna David, Ricardo Yabut, Johnny Quiambao, Nelson Calara and Nilo Caballa approved the ordinance in its full text.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao did not vote on account of his being the board's presiding officer. He said Panlilio has 10 days to act on the ordinance.

Prior to the board's voting, the PML submitted a resolution expressing "collective support" for the ordinance. Dated Sept. 19, it was signed by mayors of seven sand-rich towns and 13 mayors of towns where there are no quarry activities.

The resolution came 22 days after Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, PML president, submitted the draft of the measure to the board on Aug 29.

Pineda did not give his reaction to the approval of the ordinance when asked through PML secretary Sticky Blanco.

The board voted after reading the position paper of the Abak na Balen and Pampanga Associations of Non-Government Organizations, which asked for more consultations on the issue.

Antonio Ayson, a quarry operator, said the board "did not have much time consulting with the goose," referring to the quarry industry that he called the "goose that lays the golden eggs."

Quarry collections as of Sept. 20 have reached P60.22 million, a capitol report showed. The amount is more than double the P29.1 million the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid had collected in 2006. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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TRAFFIC ADVISORY

By tomorrow, September 24, Monday, there will be substantial improvement in traffic in the Southbound Valenzuela-Balintawak section of the NLEX.

The on-going roadworks in that section will be completed on or before September 28 when ALL southbound lanes will be opened to traffic.

We apologize for all the inconvenience the roadworks have caused. As we resume normal southbound operations, we assure you of our continued delivery of high quality services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Beetles, rooster make reading fun at Inquirer

A BEETLE, A ROOSTER AND A GIRL WITH incredible hair were just some of the characters the audience met yesterday during the tenth INQUIRER Read-Along session.

The session featured Daniel Moore, energy and environment chief of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ms Philippines-Earth 2007 Jeanne Harn, 7-year-old Mar Deo Cxelci Zuñiga and returning Alitaptap storyteller Rich Rodriguez.

Harn, together with beauty queens Krystel Ann Dizon (Miss Philippines-Air), Sarah Katrina Miñoza (Miss Philippines-Fire) and Anna Katrina Bautista (Miss Philippines-Eco-Tourism), led the audience in a song and dance number about taking care of the environment.

Moore, a coleopterist (someone who studies the life cycles, behavior, ecology and diversity of beetles), was joined by Harn in reading "Mr. Beetle's Many Rooms" by Robert Magnuson.

Moore told his audience, made up of some 70 children and their parents, that he loved to read, especially about bugs.

"Reading stimulates the mind and encourages people to go explore things in life. You get a lot of ideas from reading, but at the end of the day, you cannot stay with your nose stuck in the book. You have to take what you read and apply it to real world experiences," he said.

Then Moore brought out his beetle collection, which delighted the children.

The collection included a Goliath beetle, "the biggest beetle in the world," he said, adding that he found the insect in Africa when he worked for 15 years.

For something completely different, Zuñiga, a student at the Bagong Ilog Elementary School in Pasig, donned a red and black rooster costume and instead of reading—started "acting out" Rebecca Añonuevo's "Ang Mahiyaing Manok."

Zuñiga, a division winner in "Pagkukuwento sa Filipino," a storytelling contest in Pasig, has been reading since he was 2.

Alitaptap storyteller Rich Rodriguez read two stories: "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Racquel" by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan and "Billy Goats Gruff."

The children were given free copies of the comic book, "Hari ng Kalsada."

Sponsors of yesterday's session were Krispy Kreme, Scholastic Books, Hands on Manila, Soroptimist International of Eastwood City and Digna Aquino of Library Hub in Pasig.

The next Inquirer Read-Along session will be on Oct. 13 at the Inquirer *office in Makati and on Oct. 20 at National Bookstore at Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong. Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329. Slots are on a first-come, first-served basis.* ***Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research***

SMART Infinity unveils high-end privilege card

Leading wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) and its most premium brand, SMART Infinity, recently unveiled the Infinity Privilege Card as a special treat for all subscribers of the exclusive postpaid brand.

The Infinity Privilege Card is positioned to provide perks to affluent individuals who, awash with cash and with plenty of plastic, have become blasé with the usual privileges that come with every other card of such kind, and have begun looking for that one card that provides exceptional experience unmatched by any other.

With this particular selection of clients in mind, SMART Infinity has partnered with unique fine dining restaurants, the most exclusive hotels and resorts in the prime tourist spots in the country, and specialty luxury stores to offer its subscribers exceptionally generous perks, only through the Infinity Privilege Card.

"With the unveiling of the Infinity Privilege Card, we raise the bar higher in terms of providing first-class perks to our valued customers," said Danilo Mojica, head of SMART's Wireless Consumer Division. "This demonstrates our commitment to maintain reward and value programs that meet our customers' needs and tastes."

To complement the Infinity Privilege Card, SMART partnered with Banco de Oro (BDO), one of the leading full-service banks in the Philippines, to offer exclusively to SMART Infinity subscribers the new SMART Infinity–BDO Platinum MasterCard®.

The exclusive Platinum Card program empowers SMART Infinity subscribers with a financial tool that matches their needs and lifestyles. It represents the fusion of the best offered by SMART, BDO, and MasterCard – all leaders in their respective fields.

At the launch of the premium lifestyle cards of SMART Infinity, many lucky guests were treated to the finest gifts as a prelude to perks that await them through the card. Grand get-away weekends at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay, the Baguio Country Club, Nami Resorts Boracay, Plantation Bay Resort in Cebu, and Pearl Farm in Davao were up for grabs. Exclusive spas like The Farm at San Benito, Urban Spa, and Beverly Hills 6750 gave away gift certificates entitling SMART Infinity subscribers to special spa therapy sessions.

The Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Discovery Suites, and The Bellevue Manila generously gave away exciting prizes to lucky subscribers. Lovely dinners and coffee dates also await SMART Infinity subscribers at Outback Restaurant, Ultra Byke Café, and at Figaro.

Beauty products and treatments courtesy of Rustan's and Emphasis Salon were raffled off and premium items were given away by Powerbooks and Powermac. Lastly, the evening's grandest prizes were a brand new Nokia E90 and Infinity ring and cufflinks from Rositi Jewels.

Indulge and experience the best, most premium privileges in life, only with SMART Infinity. Please call the SMART Infinity hotline numbers 848-8889/06 or visit the nearest SMART Wireless Center for inquiries.

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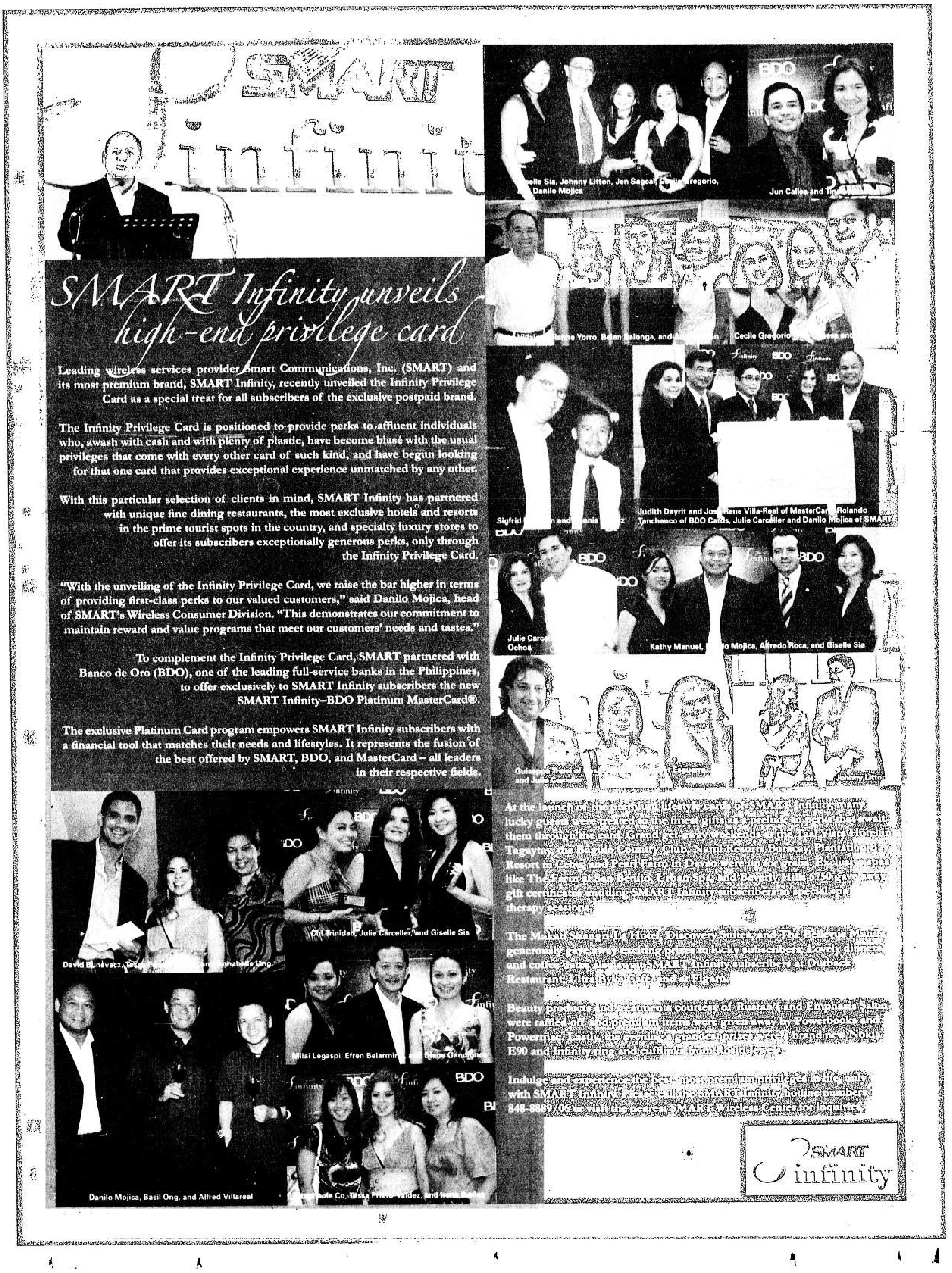

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Reviving the tertulia: A night of song and 100 fingers on the keyboard

Pianists pay tribute to St. Scho School of Music founder, Sr. Baptista Battig, in a concert on Oct. 7

THE YOUNGEST performer in the group is Lorenzo Torres, aged 7. He has been playing since he was 4 years old.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

By Allison W. Lopez

LONG BEFORE TELEVISION SETS OR karaoke machines were invented, entertainment for some Filipinos, particularly among well-to-do families, meant gathering around the piano and singing or playing stirring music.

In fact, toward the end of the 19th century until the start of World War II, "*tertulias*"—or soirees where artists and lovers of art and culture would regale one another with music or poetry—were common in mansions in Intramuros.

As part of its 100th year celebration, the School of Music of St. Scholastica's College will hold a *tertulia* on Oct. 7 featuring, among others, several pianists aged 7 to 87.

Members of the faculty and alumnae will also participate in the one-and-a-half hour concert which pays tribute to the founder of the School of Music, German nun Sr. Baptista Battig.

"Our founder came to the Philippines right about this period and so we thought it fitting that we should celebrate her musical life with an adaptation of the *tertulia* in a concert setting," said Sr. Mary Placid, the school dean.

"We'd like to bring back those days … It's going to be a modern *tertulia*, so instead of discussions that also used to come with it, it's going to be a musical hour," added SSC president, Sr. Angelica Leviste.

Although Battig naturally leaned toward European compositions, Leviste said the nun also stressed to her students the importance of enriching one's own music.

"We chose Western and Filipino compositions for the *tertulia* because Sister Battig said, 'I would like the children of the East to play as well as the children of the West. But I also want them to compose based on the techniques from Western masters,'" she added.

Faculty member Camille Lopez Molina will begin the concert by singings two songs composed by German musicians admired by Battig: "Vidmung (Dedication)" by Robert Schumann and "The Erlking" by Franz Schubert.

Molina will be accompanied on the piano by Greg Zuniega, another member of the faculty, in telling the dramatic legend often recounted by Battig to her students.

But unlike regular concerts, this modern-day *tertulia* will have the pianists walking off and on the stage, eliminating the need for curtains.

To recreate the cozy setting of these pre-WWII social gatherings, five pianos will be set up on the stage of the school's St. Cecilia's Hall, along with classical wooden furniture that performers can sit on while waiting for their cue.

AMONG those who will perform is 87-year-old Cora Mateo who graduated from the School of Music in 1948.

Among the featured pianists are Lorenzo Torres, a 7-year-old boy, and his music teacher, Mae de Vera. They will play "Variations of a Nursery Rhyme op. 25" simultaneously with four other performers, including 87-year-old Cora Mateo.

Torres has been playing since he was 4 while Mateo has been passing on her piano-playing techniques to students since she graduated from SSC in 1948.

Seated beside each other during a recent practice session, the two showed spectators how music can bridge gaps between generations.

"As you grow older it gets harder, and you get nervous because sometimes, your fingers get stiff," admitted Mateo, laughing.

Still, she showed grace and form as she hit the keys beside Torres who was beaming as he played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Not to be outdone, 10 nuns led by Placid, Leviste, Mother Prioress Sr. Mary John Mananzan and Sr. Pia Lansang, former prioress, will perform "Filipiniana II."

Next, a hundred fingers, or 10 pianists composed of faculty members and alumnae, will be playing in duet or alternates Filipino folk songs like "*Katakataka*," "*Ahay Tuburan*," and "*Pandangguhan*."

Pianist and stage director Della Besa said there was an added degree of difficulty when people play the piano simultaneously.

"You need to know the piece well and the parts to be played by the others as well. The important thing is you must listen," she explained.

Other performers are members of the SSC Chamber Orchestra who will sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

In honor of Battig, who headed the School of Music for more than 30 years before her death in 1942, Grace Africa Gatchalian will perform Maurice Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess" with cello obbligato by Gerry Graham Gonzales.

Battig and the *tertulia* may be distant memories by now, but Scholasticans will surely live and breathe music for generations to come.

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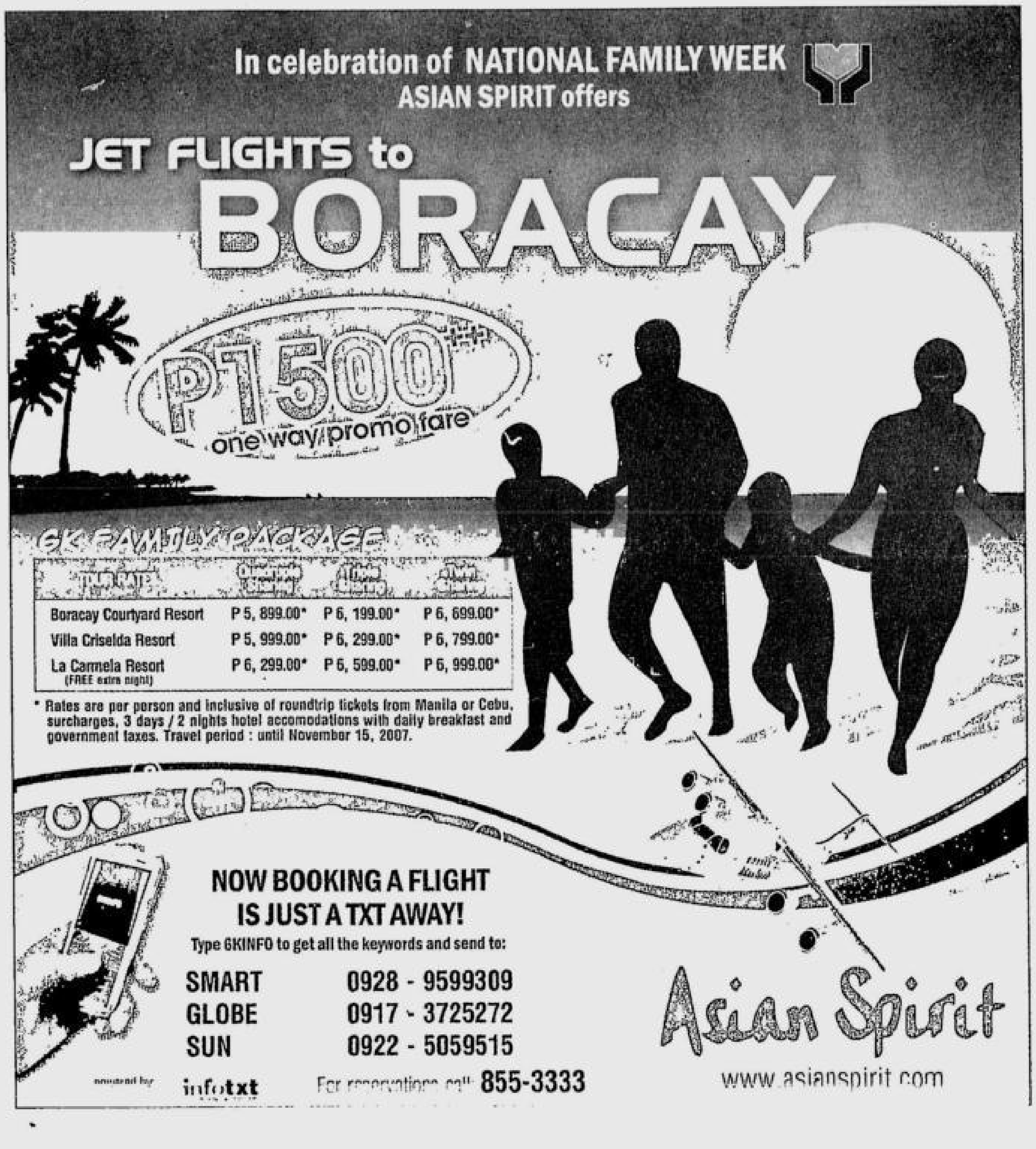
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Marine biologist keeps 'little trees,' not coral reefs, in backyard nursery

By Julie M. Aurelio

TALES OF THE CITY

DURING OFFICE HOURS, THE tall, bearded professor of marine biology spends most of his time studying coral reefs and giant clams.

In his spare time, however, Dr. Edgardo Gomez plays "foster father" to thousands of baby trees he grows in pots and plastic bags in his backyard.

"I don't really keep track of them. I've probably grown thousands," said the 68-year-old professor.

But his trees of choice are not the common *acacia* or *ipil-ipil*, which, according to Gomez, are not even endemic to the country.

He clarified that most species commonly considered as homegrown are, in fact, exotic and came from South America or mainland Asia. These include the *acacia*, *ipil-ipil*, Indian, *kapok*, mahogany, *Gmelina* and eucalyptus.

His backyard in Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City measures 40-sq m and is home to 100 or so baby trees. Ironically, there is only one full grown tree—a *macopa*—on his property.

Gomez said he looks after narra, apitong, dau, molave, malabulak, and *calumpit* trees.

"This advocacy of mine started as just a past time. Planting native trees is my hobby, the way other people have their own hobbies," he told the INQUIRER.

Asked how long it takes for a seed to bloom and become a "little tree," Gomez said it depends on the specie and the quality of the soil and water used during the planting process.

When his trees mature, they are replanted on the sprawling University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City, where he served for nearly 25 years as founding director of the Marine Science Institute (MSI).

Most of his "babies" can be found at the College of Science complex, bounded by C.P. Garcia and A. Roces Sr. Avenues. Ironically, the campus is mostly populated with exotic trees and not with native species, he points out.

"Our country is rich in flora. But we know more about exotic types than our own native varieties. Is it because these are easier to grow?" Gomez asked.

He began planting native trees in 1987 on the Diliman campus, believing that it was but logical to fill the Sunken Garden with narra, not acacia trees. Some of his babies have grown nearly 100 feet tall. Gomez hastened to add with a chuckle, "But if I ask them to cut down the acacias, they will kill me."

Gomez is only able to care for trees in his spare time as he is still actively conducting research on coral reefs and invertebrate reproduction at the MSI.

He called himself "an opportunistic gardener" who plants whatever seeds he can get his hands on.

Gomez gets his seeds from friends who stumble upon amazing finds, or from trips to different places in the country. He then plants these in pots, cans or even plastic bags in his backyard.

"Phoebe sometimes gets angry because of the many seedlings in our garden. She even asked me to move out some of them," he confessed, referring to his wife, a former ambassador to Myanmar.

Gomez said his penchant for growing native trees came about while growing up in a farm in Angeles City, Pampanga.

Belonging to a landed family, Gomez spent his childhood in a four-hectare farm where he raised tomatoes as a child. His mother, Pacita, loved plants and had her own garden.

But when Japanese forces occupied the country, the Gomezes moved to an apartment building in Pasay City owned by his father.

"I'm really the son of a farmer," he said in jest, adding that growing up in a farm "made me love nature and trees."

When the marine biologist got his own apartment, also in his father's building, he began planting native trees in small pots on his verandah. Gomez moved to Ayala Alabang eight years ago and has continued growing trees in his backyard.

Gomez also gives away seedlings to friends and to schools such as the Holy Angel University in Pampanga and the De La Salle University.

"Trees give me pleasure and enjoyment. I don't plant them for myself but for others," he said, adding that it costs him less than P100 to buy soil and plastic bags for the seeds.

Gomez has thought of selling his little trees, but he said his day job at the MSI already pays for the bills and much more.

Said the dedicated professor, "I do it for the love of it. You can do a lot with so little. All it takes is perseverance, determination and hope."

DR. EDGARDO Gomez shows one of his "babies"—the seed of the apitong tree.

PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

THE PROFESSOR examines the leaves of the Balalat tree which has a thorny trunk. The tree got its name from the municipality of Mabalacat in Pampanga.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The IMFO column of lawyer Lourdes Santos Tancinco will resume next Sunday.

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the worl [illegible]n be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Love in a time of martial law

COMRADES AND LOVERS: Alex and Edna Aquino sit idly in the comfort of his remittance office in Tsim Sha Tsui in Hong Kong, recalling the many twists and turns in their lives in the years of living dangerously in Manila.
DANTE PERALTA

By Philip C. Tubeza
Correspondent

HONG KONG—SHE was pregnant and on the run from military agents hunting her down. He was in a military stockade smuggling out letters in candy wrappers in the hope that these would reach her.

For then student activists Edna and Alex Aquino, the onset of martial law was a crucible that molded their young lives together as they desperately kept alive underground the fight against the Marcos dictatorship while trying to eke out a life for their family in Manila.

Alex would be arrested twice by the military while many of his friends who had taken up arms were killed in violent encounters with soldiers in the countryside.

Edna would try to convince a young Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to formally join the communist movement *(See related story below)* and, in the 1980s, be among the first to look into the plight of the growing number of Filipino migrants leaving the country.

Edna received an award from Queen Elizabeth II in 2003 for her community work among Filipino migrants in London.

But it's the memories of martial law that remain most vivid for the couple, now based in Hong Kong. Particularly for Edna, those dark days would always remind her of how she bagged her husband while being on the run.

Anniversary

"Martial law helped me get my husband," Edna said, adding that she considered its onset as their anniversary. [The declaration of martial law was officially announced on Sept. 23, 1972. But President Ferdinand Marcos signed the declaration Sept. 21, 1972.]

"It was when we formalized (our affair) that we would like to live as a couple. That is why we celebrate our anniversary during martial law," she said.

A distant relative of former President Corazon Aquino (on the Sumulong-Cojuangco side), Alex was then being hunted down by the military for being one of the leading activists of the Kabataang Makabayan, a radical leftist youth organization.

He was a former president of the Ateneo de Manila University student council and headed the Student Alliance for National Democracy, a coalition of different student councils across the country.

Edna had joined the Communist Party of the Philippines a few months before Ferdinand Marcos declared martial rule on Sept. 21, 1972.

"I don't want to be misinterpreted that I'm trying to trivialize what happened. What happened to activists like us was really full of drama. There were so many sad stories of course but there were also stories that, looking back, would make us smile," she said.

"These stories should one day be written. It's not just sad stories. We grew up also in the midst of making mistakes."

It happened on 3rd night

Alex and Edna had known each other for a year when martial law was declared, which when it came, she got lucky since they were the ones paired off as leading activists went underground.

"It was the third night of martial law and we were sleeping in the house of a fellow activist. He was assessing what was happening. We called it NatSit (national situation) and IntSit (international situation)," Edna said.

"*Biglang nag-*fast forward *siya, 'Alam mo may sasabihin ako sayo.' Naku e di nanlamig na ako. 'Naku eto na nga yun.' Tapos nagtapat na nga siya. Ayun*," she said.

Edna added: "So a few weeks after, we were 'married' but in a way that we ourselves defined it because in the movement then, you had to go through the process of informing the collective, but for us, *basta kami, kami*."

Edna had fallen for Alex when they became close friends during those heady days of student activism.

"He was my crush but I did not know if he also liked me," she said.

But they never got married in church. They later obtained a marriage certificate so that Edna could use Alex's surname to avoid detection as they went through a dangerous cat and mouse game with military agents in the dark alleys and side streets of Manila.

At first, they hid in the houses of friends, relatives, or acquaintances but this later proved to be untenable since their presence posed a danger to their hosts. And so after a few months on the run, the activists decided to rent apartments and turn these into "UG" or underground houses.

And since it was martial law, communication between the different cells of the underground was severely restricted.

"Sometimes we ended up (unknowingly) renting apartments two blocks away from each other, and we would later find out that we had the same landlord," Edna said.

Secret letters

They had to be prepared to jump out of the window at any given moment due to the threat of a raid by the military.

"You could not sleep in your nightgown or in your underwear. No way. You had to wear at least shorts and a T-shirt so you could mingle with the crowd when you escape," Edna said.

And during Christmas time, they were so sad because they could not visit their families.

And it became more of a challenge for Edna when Alex was arrested in January 1973 after the military raided a house where he was hiding. Afterwards, Edna learned she was pregnant.

"I continued with my life in the underground but it was so difficult because we had no contact," she said.

She later took courage and contacted his mother and asked her if she could carry her letter to Alex who was detained in Fort Bonifacio. "It was hidden inside a candy wrapper. His reply came in a cigarette pack. *Alam mo yung* silver *na palara? Yun ang* stationary *niya. Madrama.* We relished the thought that we could (communicate secretly)," Edna said.

"When he was released around May, I was already heavy with our first child. So I said my pregnancy would make me less vulnerable to arrest so I surfaced naturally and gave birth in October."

The military did not arrest her but the next year, they again arrested Alex and her mother and sister while the Miss Universe beauty pageant was held in Manila.

Luckily, a delegation from Amnesty International was then visiting the country to document human rights abuses and make a public case abroad against the Marcos regime.

The case of Alex and his in-laws were supposed to be the first on the AI list but that did not push through after Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ordered his release.

Normal lives

"Minister Enrile told me, 'So, what's the case?' and he asked why (Alex) was arrested. *Sabi ko*, 'Sir, you should know because you signed the (arrest) order,'" Edna said.

"*Ang taray taray ko na noon* (but) you know right then he signed (Alex's) release?"

Edna and Alex tried to live normal lives and raise a family after his release in 1974. He worked for the Cojuangcos while Edna joined the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, ironically a project of then First Lady Imelda Marcos. But then their comrades from the underground contacted them, and before they knew it, they were again deeply involved in the struggle against the dictatorship.

"I was building solidarity networks and then we also began looking at migrant workers. I was one of those who started the thinking on how to organize the workers abroad," Edna said.

But by then, debates within the party began to surface about what to do with the democratic space opened up by the fall of Marcos. Edna became demoralized as she began having more and more differences with the party line.

Queen's award

Her demoralization came to a head after the military arrested her in June 1990 in Makati on charges that she and Alex were behind the kidnapping of soldiers in Quezon province which happened when they were out of the country. Alex was then abroad when Edna was arrested.

While in jail, she learned about a job opening in Amnesty International in London and so she applied for it.

"I had three children waiting in grade school. So I applied for my job from jail. To cut the story short, I made a deal with the military that I will apply for amnesty," Edna said.

"So I tried to take control of my life and be ready to face the consequences. And I have no regrets."

After leaving the Philippines, Edna worked as AI's gender advocacy manager, leading its Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, while Alex is now in the remittance business. They cut their ties with the CPP but continued in their advocacies, focusing on their fellow migrant workers.

"Our service for the country is not just about the party or movement. We were doing it for the people," Edna said.

"We set up this center that became a role model in London for its good work to the extent that it got the Queen's award in 2003 and then a year after that we got a similar award from Malacañang. So many blessings."

The Centre for Filipinos was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubileee Award for voluntary service by groups in the community on the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation.

Edna and Alex said they miss the friends they had in the underground, adding that they continue to be grateful to the party for the "privilege" of being part of the struggle against the dictatorship.

Still activists

Said Alex: "It forged very close ties among people of the same persuasion. You lived through life and death situations and so you have the same memories."

Said Edna: "I'm very thankful to the party and the people who have molded me along the way. I'll never, never turn my back on that. But you grow and I certainly have outgrown the party."

"Now, we are activists in our own persons and still committed to meaningful and genuine social change and to social justice. We don't have any organizational affiliation or loyalty that can be burdensome. As long as you are honest, true and confident in yourself, that's what is important."

'GMA supported communist movement, but hated Joma'

By Philip Tubeza
Correspondent

HONG KONG—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo might now be planning an all-out war to crush the communists, but during the martial law years until the early 1980s she was one of its active supporters.

So close was the collaboration that she was once even invited to formally join the National Democratic Front.

According to Alex and Edna Aquino, former members of the communist underground, Ms Arroyo, then a budding economics professor, "took risks" and actively supported the Left as part of the broad coalition against the Marcos dictatorship.

Extremely devoted

But she declined to formally join the communists because Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, had branded her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, as an American puppet.

The label was contained in the book Philippine Society and Revolution, purportedly authored by Sison.

"She was part of the network of the (underground)," Edna said. "At one point, we approached her if she could formally join the NDF."

"(Gloria) said that she will only be open to any discussion on that if that labeling of her father's regime or government would be removed," she added.

Edna said that Ms Arroyo became an anti-Marcos personality at that time because of her father. "She was extremely devoted to her father," she said.

Ferdinand Marcos defeated Ms Arroyo's father in his bid to get reelected in the 1965 presidential elections.

"Gloria was so angry about that labeling of her father but equally mad at Joma," Edna said.

And so Ms. Arroyo was not formally inducted into the NDF since the party of course would not revise the then-influential treatise of its founding chair.

Nevertheless, the young Arroyo continued to support the Left, according to Edna. Alex added that she also helped produce position papers about the country's economic situation and how the economic model post-Marcos should be at that time.

Simple, generous

"*Tumulong siya* consciously. She was a very good ally of the ND (national democratic) movement as part of the anti-Marcos movement right after martial law until, if I can recall, until probably Ninoy's time," Edna said.

"She was one of those who took risks. We would have open and deep discussions with her."

Edna said the future President then was "a very simple, generous" individual.

"We became friends, with lots of mutual respect for each other," Edna said.

Edna said she would also defend Ms Arroyo's anti-Marcos record whenever others, particularly those associated with former President Corazon Aquino, would dismiss it.

"I would tell them 'Look, she was part of the anti-Marcos group then' (but) they would vehemently deny it. I would say 'Come on. GMA was part of it.' Why deny her role?" she said.

"They were even denying that she marched with us on Ayala (Avenue) but I saw her. We were marching together in Ayala. Maybe not every Friday but I definitely saw her," she added.

Edna said this attitude of some blue-blooded activists at that time was in part caused by her identification with the Left.

Close to China

"(It's) either 'You're one of us or you're not one of us.' *E iba naman ang association ni GMA noon.* She was more on our side than on the side of the *conocono* (the Spanish-speaking anti-Marcos elite). Interesting *talaga yan. Yung* twists and turns," Edna said.

Edna and Alex also remember Ms Arroyo being part of an effort facilitated by the Left to establish "people to people relations" with communist China as early as 1973.

"Very special friends *sila ng* China, which needed all the friends it could tap to boost its diplomatic ties abroad, particularly in the Philippines, then seen as a strong ally of the US," Alex said.

Abuses

"*Kaya si Gloria ngayon napakalapit niyan sa China kasi hindi nakakalimutan ng China na noong panahon na hindi sila popular etong Presidente na to,* at the risk of *siguro* of her career, *hindi pa siguro* her life, was already supporting them.

But Edna and Alex are also critical of the dismal human rights record of the Arroyo administration, particularly with the recent spate of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of leftists.

"GMA as President is not the GMA whom I consider my friend. She is the head of state and the state is responsible for all of these," Edna said.

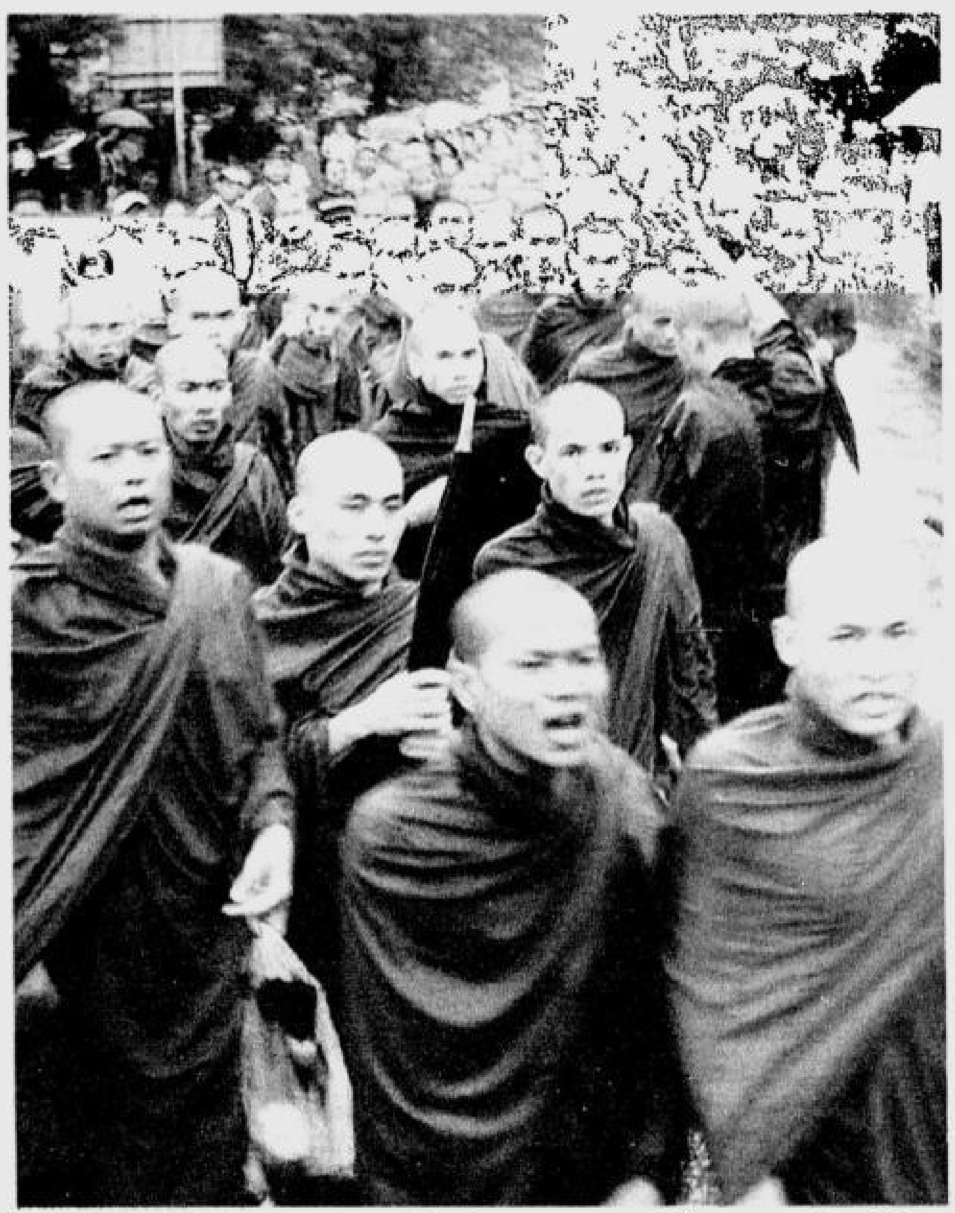
"*At hindi lang yung* killings. There are many wrong decisions. I'm equally critical of the Hello Garci tape scandal."

Edna said she would have no qualms about telling Ms Arroyo what she thought about these abuses if they get to meet again.

"But she as Gloria who is my friend of those years when we were in the anti-Marcos front, we will always cherish those memories. Why will she be deprived of that acknowledgement of her contribution as an individual?" she said.

"On the other hand, with all these reconciliatory moves between the Arroyo presidency and the Marcoses—she can't blame people and even friends in her previous life to question the moral standards that she fought for during that time," Edna said.

"Ultimately, that's really between her and her conscience. It's a chapter in her own personal journey. Only history and God will judge."



MONKS march during a protest against the government in Rangoon on Sept. 21.
REUTERS

1,500 monks hold protest march in Burma capital

RANGOON—AT LEAST 3,000 PEOPLE led by Buddhist monks marched along flooded streets in this capital on Friday, piling pressure on the ruling junta in Burma (also known as Myanmar) in the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly 20 years.

About 1,500 cinnamon-robed monks marched barefoot through the city, attracting an equal number of followers who left the sidewalks in driving rain to wade through sometimes knee-deep water and chant prayers calling for peace.

Hundreds more people clapped from the sidewalks and from open windows along the route as the procession passed by.

The protests that began on Aug. 19 have turned into the most prolonged show of defiance in nearly 20 years against the military, which has ruled this impoverished nation since 1962.

The latest protest began with about 500 Buddhist monks walking to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma's most important landmark, witnesses said.

As they continued their march into downtown, the number of monks swelled to 1,500 with another 1,500 supporters joining them. About 100 women formed a human chain to protect the monks, who carried multicolored religious flags.

They stopped outside the Rangoon (Yangon) city hall, where they chanted prayers, reciting: "Peace and security will prevail. The people will not be harmed."

Monks have protested against the regime all week, revitalizing antijunta rallies that erupted a month ago amid public anger over a massive hike in fuel prices, which has left many unable to afford bus fare to get to work.

"Monks are taking to the streets in order to make the government listen and understand people's suffering," said Aung Naing Oo, a Thailand-based Burma analyst.

Some monks have refused to accept donations from members of the military, a gesture seen as a severe rebuke tantamount to excommunication for Buddhists, who believe that giving alms daily is an important religious duty.

More than 150 people, including some of the nation's most prominent prodemocracy leaders, have been arrested since the protests began last month.

Burma's prodemocracy movement has long demanded reforms from the regime and freedom for Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent most of the last 18 years under house arrest. *AFP*

Fujimori loses extradition battle, to be sent to Peru

FUJIMORI REUTERS

SANTIAGO—FORMER PERUVIAN President Alberto Fujimori lost his battle against extradition from Chile on Friday and was due to be taken to Lima to face charges of human rights abuse and corruption.

The man famed for crushing Maoist rebel group, the Shining Path, during his 1990-2000 rule was expected to be taken from his temporary residence on the outskirts of the Chilean capital Santiago to the city's airport on Friday evening.

From there, Chilean police said he would be flown to the border with Peru where he would be handed to Peruvian authorities, hours after Chile's Supreme Court sealed his fate by ordering his extradition.

The 69-year-old's hasty, forced departure from Chile came nearly two years after he arrived unexpectedly in Santiago from Japan aiming to make a political comeback in Peru. The son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori had spent five years in exile in Japan following the collapse of his government in 2000.

In his two years under arrest in Chile, he has fought a constant legal battle to avoid extradition to the country he once ruled.

That battle ended on Friday when Chile's Supreme Court ruled in favor of Peruvian prosecutors. The decision, which cannot be appealed, was a surprise and contradicted an earlier ruling by one of the court's own judges.

The court unanimously accepted evidence linking Fujimori to two notorious massacres—known as Barrios Altos and La Cantuta—in the early 1990s, when Peru was at war with the Shining Path.

Students, a professor and a child were among the 25 killed in the massacres, which Peruvian state prosecutors blame on death squads run by Fujimori's government.

"(The vote) was much easier than we thought and the important thing above all was Barrios Altos and La Cantuta," said Alberto Chaigneau, one of five judges who heard the case.

In an interview after the ruling, Fujimori said he would clear his name in Lima and insisted his tough actions had been necessary to rid Peru of Latin America's bloodiest insurgents. *Reuters*

26 nations urge rapid deployment of UN peace force to Darfur

UNITED NATIONS—A MEETING OF LEADERS FROM 26 nations called Friday for the rapid deployment to Darfur of the 26,000-member African Union-UN peacekeeping force approved by the Security Council and the participation of all rebel groups in peace talks scheduled for next month.

"If they are really leaders and think about the future of Sudan, they should go to the dialogue table," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. The talks are to be in Tripoli, Libya, and some of the groups fighting the Khartoum government have expressed reservations about attending.

Alpha Oumar Konare, chair of the African Union, said the groups would have "full guarantees" that their views would be heard. "It is not acceptable that those that claim to be fighting for their peoples refuse to come to the negotiating table," he said.

The participants also witnessed a dispute over the composition of the force that Sudan was insisting must be all-African but others were saying must have some non-African elements if it was to meet UN standards.

"We don't need them," Lam Akol, Sudan's foreign minister, said when asked about troops offered by Thailand and Uruguay, countries that traditionally supply trained peacekeepers for UN missions. "There are enough African troops," he added, saying that Africans had already promised almost twice the number needed.

John D. Negroponte, the US deputy secretary of state said, "Sudan has nothing to be afraid of" from the inclusion of non-African troops. Saying that the Sudanese government should stop its "foot-dragging," he noted that 18 months after the signing of an original peace agreement for Darfur, "we are still just in the initial phase."

Lord Malloch-Brown, the former deputy secretary-general who is now Britain's minister of state for Africa, Asia and the United Nations, suggested the matter should be removed from the political sphere and settled on a "technical" basis based on the specialized needs of the force.

A CHINESE soldier from an engineering unit practices at an army camp in Qinyang in Henan province on Sept. 15. The soldier is a part of a 315-member multifunctional unit that will go for a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Darfur region of Sudan in the near future. REUTERS

Ban said, "This issue should not be viewed as some difference on political issues." He said it would be "resolved through technical discussions." *NYT*

US says 1 million Chinese-made cribs recalled after infants' deaths

WASHINGTON—SIMPLICITY INC., A supplier of baby furniture to Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other big retailers, is recalling about one million Chinese-made baby cribs that have been linked to at least two infant deaths, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said on Friday.

The drop-side can detach from the crib, which can create a dangerous gap that leads to an infant being trapped and suffocated, the safety agency said in a statement. It urged parents to check all Simplicity-made cribs to ensure the drop-side is installed correctly.

The cribs, priced between $100 and $300, were sold by US retailers and chains, including Target Corp's website, Big Lots Inc. and family-owned Meijer Inc.

"The drop-side failures result from both the hardware and crib design, which allow consumers to unintentionally install the drop-side upside down," the safety commission said. "This, in turn, can weaken the hardware and cause the drop-side to detach from the crib. When the drop-side detaches, it creates a gap in which infants can become entrapped."

Two separate infant deaths involving a 9-month-old and a 6-month-old occurred when cribs with older-style hardware had the drop-side installed upside down, the agency said.

The CPSC said it was also investigating a third death that had newer-style hardware. The agency has received reports of seven infant entrapments involving the recalled products.

"CPSC is also aware of two incidents that occurred when the drop-side was correctly installed with older style hardware, though the upside down installation greatly increases the risk of failure," the agency said.

Although the cribs were made in China, the safety agency downplayed that aspect of the massive recall.

"This recall isn't a China-made problem. It's more about hardware and crib design and less about it being assembled in China," a CPSC spokesperson said.

China has been in the spotlight for a series of recent recalls involving products ranging from lead-painted toys to tainted toothpaste and pet food. *Reuters*

2 students shot in US campus row

DOVER, DEL.—THE CAMPUS OF Delaware State University was locked down Friday after two freshman students were shot and wounded, one seriously, when an argument that had begun at a university cafeteria resumed on the street, the police said.

The two suspects in the shootings were also students, the police said. One was taken into custody for questioning, and the other was being sought Friday night. Neither was identified publicly.

University officials responded quickly to the shootings, which occurred shortly before 1 a.m. near Memorial Hall, a complex that includes the gymnasium and athletics department offices.

Officials alerted students of the emergency within 15 minutes and locked down most buildings. Within two hours, students and administrators said, officials at the 162-hectare campus about 153 km east of Washington, had posted flyers at dorms and a message on the campus website. They also telephoned campus residence halls to make sure resident advisers knew what was going on and to tell them that classes were canceled Friday.

The police said that not long before the shooting, a group of eight to 10 students left the cafeteria after an argument. When they encountered one another again at a nearby corner, one of them pulled a gun and began firing.

Shalita Middleton, 17-year-old from Washington, was shot twice in the torso, and Nathaniel Pew, 17, of Washington, was shot once in the ankle, officials in the District of Columbia mayor's office said. *NYT*

Castro reappears to quash rumors about his demise

HAVANA—CUBAN LEADER FIDEL Castro appeared in his first television interview in more than three months on Friday, ending speculation that the ailing revolutionary had died or suffered a major relapse.

Castro, 81, spoke slowly about world affairs, the Cold War and the global economy, but appeared little changed from the last time he was shown in a state television interview on June 5.

"Here I am," Castro said, rebuffing those who have speculated that he was at death's door, already dead or about to die.

Dressed in what has become a customary red, blue and white athletic jacket, sitting in an armchair and showing his age through the gray in his beard and bags under his eyes, Castro answered questions about an essay he published this week and attacked the United States, his longtime ideological foe.

"Yesterday the euro was at $1.41. Oil, I think, about $84 a barrel," Castro said at one point, indicating that he was up to date on current affairs and signaling that the interview was very recent.

He also held up a copy of a book by former US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan, "The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World," which was published this week, and read excerpts in Spanish from the dust jacket.

Castro, who took power on the Caribbean island in a 1959 revolution, handed over control to his younger brother, Raul Castro, on July 31, 2006, after emergency intestinal surgery. He has not appeared in public since then.

Instead, he has been seen in occasional photographs and videos with visiting foreign leaders and has published a steady stream of columns and essays in state media over the past six months.

FRAIL BUT QUITE ALIVE: Cuba leader Fidel Castro on Sept. 21. REUTERS

His failure to appear on his birthday on Aug. 13 fueled rampant rumors in Miami—the heartland of exiled opposition to his nearly five-decade-long rule—that Castro had had a major health setback, was on his deathbed or was already dead.

The interview amazed Cubans, 70 percent of whom had known no other leader before Castro fell sick last year. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Barrera knocked out? /A23

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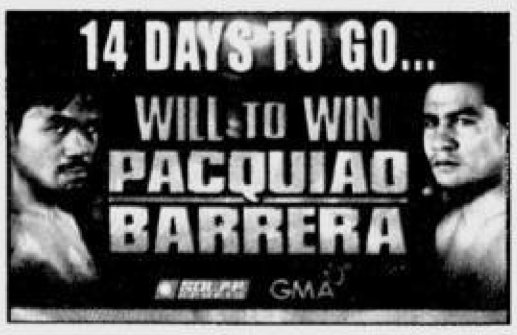


14 DAYS TO GO...
WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO BARRERA
GMA

RP netters off to a blazing start

Near Group 1 stint after taking 2-0 lead vs Kuwaitis; 'toxic food' downs Mamiit

KUWAIT CITY—THE PHILIPPINES HANDILY WON ITS first two singles matches in the Asia-Oceania Zone Davis Cup Group II finals tie with Kuwait Friday.

The country is thus just one win shy of returning back to Group I in the elite competition, but that bid hit a major snag when top gun Cecil Mamiit was downed by a "certain toxic ingredient" after taking his dinner.

Mamiit blasted Ahmad Rabeea Muhammad, 6-3, 6-0, 6-0, and Taino followed it up with a 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (5) win over Kuwaiti No. 1 Mohammad Al-Ghareeb.

The team feasted on *tinolang manok* (chicken ginger stew) for dinner. At around midnight, Mamiit complained of discomfort and had to be taken to the New Dor Al Shifa hospital by non-playing captain Martin Misa and coach Chris Cuarto.

The Filipino-American netter was given the antihistamine medicine Telfast and was advised to take a rest for at least three days.

"This is the first time that I had this (allergy)," the 31-year-old Mamiit said. "We've been eating *tinolang manok* the past few days but this time, something in the food caused this, I think."

The Filipinos were to go for the jugular late last night but as of press time, it is still uncertain if Mamiit can play with Taino in their doubles encounter against Al-Ghareeb and Muhammad.

Misa said if Mamiit cannot play, he will put in either Patrick John Tierro or Johnny Arcilla. The reverse singles will be played today.

In the first match, the 20-year-old Muhammad had the Kuwaiti gallery cheering wildly as the eight-time Davis Cup campaigner challenged Mamiit in the first five games to take a 3-2 lead in the first set.

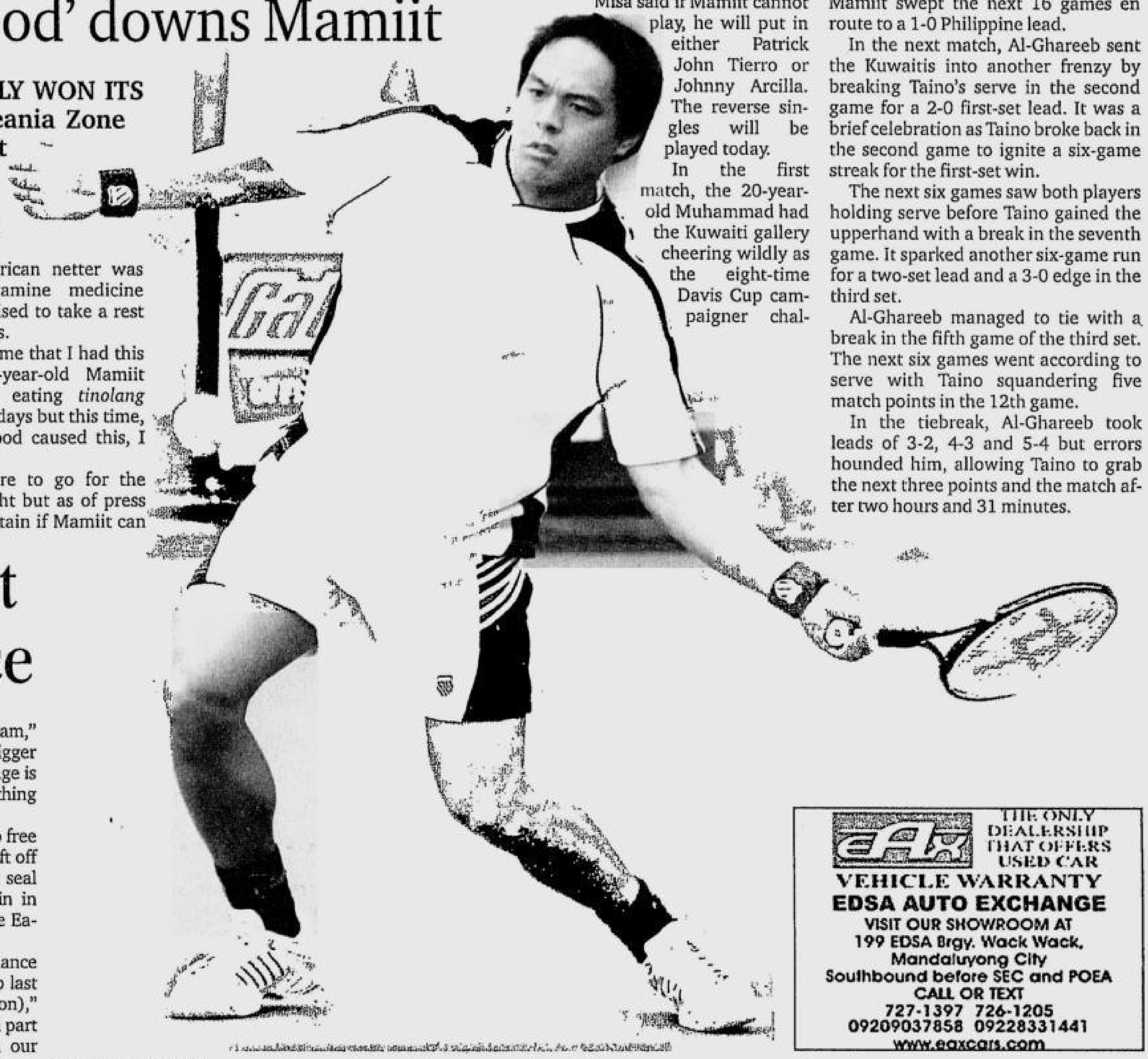
It proved to be his finest moment as Mamiit swept the next 16 games en route to a 1-0 Philippine lead.

In the next match, Al-Ghareeb sent the Kuwaitis into another frenzy by breaking Taino's serve in the second game for a 2-0 first-set lead. It was a brief celebration as Taino broke back in the second game to ignite a six-game streak for the first-set win.

The next six games saw both players holding serve before Taino gained the upperhand with a break in the seventh game. It sparked another six-game run for a two-set lead and a 3-0 edge in the third set.

Al-Ghareeb managed to tie with a break in the fifth game of the third set. The next six games went according to serve with Taino squandering five match points in the 12th game.

In the tiebreak, Al-Ghareeb took leads of 3-2, 4-3 and 5-4 but errors hounded him, allowing Taino to grab the next three points and the match after two hours and 31 minutes.



WITH Cecil Mamiit possibly decommissioned by stomach problems, Eric Taino might have to step up for an RP squad hoping to return to Group I of Davis Cup competitions. PDI PHOTO

La Salle draws first blood in junior race

GAMES SATURDAY
2 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Women's)
3:45 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Jrs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THIEVES STRUCK AND STOLE lots of valuables from the La Salle locker room.

On the court, it was the Junior Archers who pulled off a heist of sorts, stealing Game 1 from a fancied Ateneo five, 76-74, in Game 1 of the UAAP juniors basketball best-of-three finals last night at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"So this is what happens to winning teams at Ninoy," said La Salle coach Boris Aldeguer, after finding out they were robbed.

Aldeguer commended the Junior Archers for upsetting the defending champions Blue Eagles and moving within a win of clinching the title.

"Ateneo is a strong team," Aldeguer said. "They're bigger and faster. Our only advantage is our heart. That's the only thing that carried us through."

Marco Fortuna nailed two free throws with 19.9 seconds left off a Jayvee Dumrique foul to seal the Junior Archers' first win in three encounters against the Eaglets this season.

"We were never given a chance to defend our championship last year (due to the suspension)," said Aldeguer. "But the good part was we started early with our preparation for this season."

Ateneo, though, prevailed in women's play as the Lady Eagles repulsed the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons, 64-60, in Game 1 of their own best-of-three title series.

Sarah Mercado and Anjelica Barracoso paced the Lady Eagles with 15 markers each.

'It's all about toughness' as Eagles, Tigers collide

GAME TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST

By Jasmine W. Payo

IN A TWIST THAT'S NOT AS SURPRISING considering where it's coming from, the team that has been teetering on the brink is the one brimming with confidence.

"*Basta* playoffs *dyan kami matindi* (In the playoffs, that's where we do well)," said Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio on the eve of a do-or-die duel against an Ateneo squad that wasted a couple of opportunities to stay out of this dogfight.

Don't credit Jarencio's bravado to pure machismo. This is, after all, UST, the unranked squad that pulled off an improbable UAAP title run last year.

The Tigers, who barely made it to the Final Four again this season, only need to don the familiar gold-and-white to issue a painful reminder to the Ateneo Blue Eagles as they clash at the start of the men's basketball stepladder semifinals.

"We're just ready; in the playoffs, there's no advantage or disadvantage," said Jarencio, whose Tigers stunned the favored Eagles in last year's title clash.

The winner of the 3 p.m. knockout match today at the Araneta Coliseum will advance opposite the No. 2 La Salle Green Archers, who carry a twice-to-beat edge.

And the final victor in

IT'S/ A22

JERVY Cruz will again be Ateneo's main concern. PDI PHOTO

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National club champions square off at Eagle Ridge

A TRIP TO SINGAPORE IS IN STORE for the winners of the 2007 National Tournament Club of Champions (NTCC) where they will get the chance to watch the stars of the HSBC Women's Champions, one of the world's biggest competitions for women.

HSBC, INQUIRER GOLF and the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club are partnering again for the third year as copresenters of the 2007 NTCC on October 22-26 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

For the three NTCC winners, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see some of the world's best women golfers compete for the coveted "Champion of Champions" title.

Winners of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour, leading money winners from the Japan Ladies Professional Golf Association (JLPGA), Korea Ladies Professional Golf Association (KLPGA) Tour, Ladies European Tour (LET), Australian Ladies Professional Golf (ALPG), Duramed Futures Tour, Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT) and the top player from the continent of Africa will qualify to play in the HSBC Women's Champions, making this one of the most prestigious golf competitions in Asia.

The inaugural HSBC Women's Champions will give away US$2 million in prizes ($300,000 to the winner), the largest purse for a women's event in Asia, and will be played at the prestigious Tanah Merah Country Club in Singapore.

On the local front, the NTCC, which has staged the mens' and ladies' competition for the past two years, has added two new events: the seniors division and the team competition. The team event results will be based on the collective performance of each participating club's entries.

Club champions as of May 1, 2007 are eligible to compete in the invitational tournament, but entries will be subject to the eligibility requirements of the NTCC.

For inquiries on the NTCC, please call Jong Arcano or Chris Vida at 8978808 local 261 or contact your respective clubs. Details are also available at pilipinasgolf.com, the website of the country's two leading golf publications INQUIRER GOLF and Golf Digest Philippines.

ASIAN CHESS

Filipino bets back on track

By Roy Luarca

STANDINGS: 4.0 points—S. Megaranto (Ina); 3.5—Zhang Pengxiang; 3.0-R. Antonio (RP), Li Chao (China), Zhou Jianchao (China), G.N. Gopal (India)m A. Kunte (India), D. Laylo (RP); 2.5—W. So (RP), U. Adianto (Ina), E. Moradiabadi (Qatar), A. Filipov (Uzb), C. Deepan (India), TH Dao (Viet), S. Yang (Chna), P. Negi (India), M. Paragua (RP)

AFTER claiming the scalp of top Filipino woodpushers, GM Susanto Megaranto continues to grab the spotlight. WWW.CHESSBASE.DE

MANDAUE CITY—INDONESIAN Grandmaster Susanto Megaranto hogged the limelight even as Filipino bets got back on track Saturday night in the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

The 20-year-old Megaranto humbled third seeded Chinese GM Wang Hao with the black pieces in their top board battle to notch his fourth straight win and assume top spot in the qualifying tournament for the World Cup in November.

GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and Mark Paragua and International Masters Darwin Laylo and Wesley So lifted the sagging Philippine campaign by hurdling their fourth round rivals.

In a disadvantageous position, Antonio suddenly emerged the victor after Qatari IM Mohammed Al Sayed blundered away a rook in the 34th move of a Caro Kann.

Antonio and Laylo were the highest among the 19 Filipino bets after yesterday's with 3.0 points.

Antonio, of the Philippine Army whose campaign here is being supported by boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, thus rebounded from his third round defeat to newly minted GM Indian G.N. Gopal and put himself in contention for his second stint in the world championships.

In 1999, the pride of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, reached the second round in the Las Vegas edition of the annual event, yielding to Armenian Super GM and eventual finalist Vladimir Akopian.

Handling black, Paragua also capitalized on a blunder by Indian IM Prasad Arun to prevail in 50 moves of a semi-Slav and rise to 2.5 points in the company of So, who posted the day's fastest win by ripping Iranian IM Morteza Mahjoobzardast in 20 moves of a Pirc defense.

The 13-year-old So, taking advantage of the Iranian's undeveloped queenside pieces, took a pawn with his rook that would either lead to a mate or a winning position.

Laylo, seeing action in his first tournament after serving a six-month suspension slapped by the National Chess Federatin of the Philippines, defeated Mongolian Fide Master Tsegmed Batchuluun.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre also settled for a draw against Chinese GM Zhou Weiqi and was lodged at 2.0 points in the company of local bets Kim Steven Yap and IM Richard Bitoon, who was still tangling with Bangladeshi IM Enamul Hossain at presstime. Yap bowed to Chinese GM Xu Jun.

Indian IM G.N. Gopal, conqueror of Torre in Round 2 and Antonio in Round 3, is locked in a tight battle with Chinese GM Zhang Pengxiang. A victory will enable Gopal to catch up with Megaranto while a draw will put him at 3.5 points.

The third round turned out to be miserable for the Filipinos with Turin Olympians Antonio, Paragua, Laylo and So dropping their games and Torre and Dimakiling settling for draws.

Laylo bowed to Megaranto, Paragua yielded to China's Li Chao while So was beaten by Zhang Pengxiang.

Torre halved the point with Indian IM Prasad Arud and so did Dimakiling with Iranian FM Mehrdad Ardeshi.

Bitoon, Yap and Voltaire Sevillano provided some relief when they stunned higher-rated opponents.

IM Ronald Bancod finally barged into the win column after three straight defeats at the expense of Chinese Taipei's YuehWei Po.

'It's all about toughness' as Eagles, Tigers collide

From page A21

these series of frenzied battles will face the University of the East Warriors, who earned the first championship berth as a bonus for winning all 14 assignments in the elimination round.

For Ateneo, the return trip to the Finals has taken a longer route because of its own doing. The Blue Eagles dropped to No. 3 after a surprise loss to National University in the final elimination day, followed by a heartbreaker to rival La Salle in a playoff for the No. 2 spot.

But coach Norman Black said his Eagles already brushed off the upsetting twin setbacks.

"Focus now is on UST," said Black. "Jervy Cruz is our number one concern. We have to keep him off the offensive boards and not let him dominate the paint."

Cruz, the Tigers' star center, leads the Most Valuable Player race after norming 16.7 points, a league-best 15.4 boards and 1.4 blocks per game.

But Black noted that the Eagles also have to contend with the Tigers' perimeter shooters.

"Their guards are quite big," he said. "(Dylan) Ababou, (Anthony) Espiritu, (Mark) Canlas, they have an assortment of guys there who have good shots."

And this reliable bunch keyed the Tigers' semifinal survival by eliminating the Far Eastern Tamaraws in a playoff for the No. 4 spot.

UST routed Ateneo, 87-74, in the first round, but the Eagles scored sweet revenge in their next encounter when rookie guard Kirk Long buried a buzzer-beater for a 72-71 triumph.

"*Iba ang usapan sa* playoff (The playoff is a different story)," a usually cracking Jarencio said in a serious tone. "*Tingnan natin ang tibay nila, basta kami matibay kami* (We're tough, let's see how tough they are)."

Ford Nomads rule beach football tilt

TEAM FORD-NOMADS FOOTBALL Club recently topped the 1st Rudy Project beach football Invitational tournament held in Playa Calatagan, Batangas.

Also bagging honors in the event that highlighted the Filipinos' growing passion for football was Team Rudy Project/DLSU-A which bagged the ladies' open division.

Kaya FC and Nike/DLSU-B finished second and third, respectively behind the Nomads while SUNDAY INQUIRER/Alabang Grins Jrs. and Rexona/Laguna FC were runners-up behind Team Rudy Project.

According to Playa Calatagan project director Martin Caudal, the pristine white sand beachès of Playa Calatagan are perfect for a beach football tournament.

"Aside from being an ideal venue for beach-based sporting events, Playa Calatagan also offers other recreational activities for players and sports enthusiasts," said Caudal.

The 92-hectare Playa Calatagan is the Philippines' first tourism estate designed around a beach community.

Interested parties may call 8500594 or 0920-9549688 or e-mail playacalatagan@landcopacific.com.

All set for Pacific poker

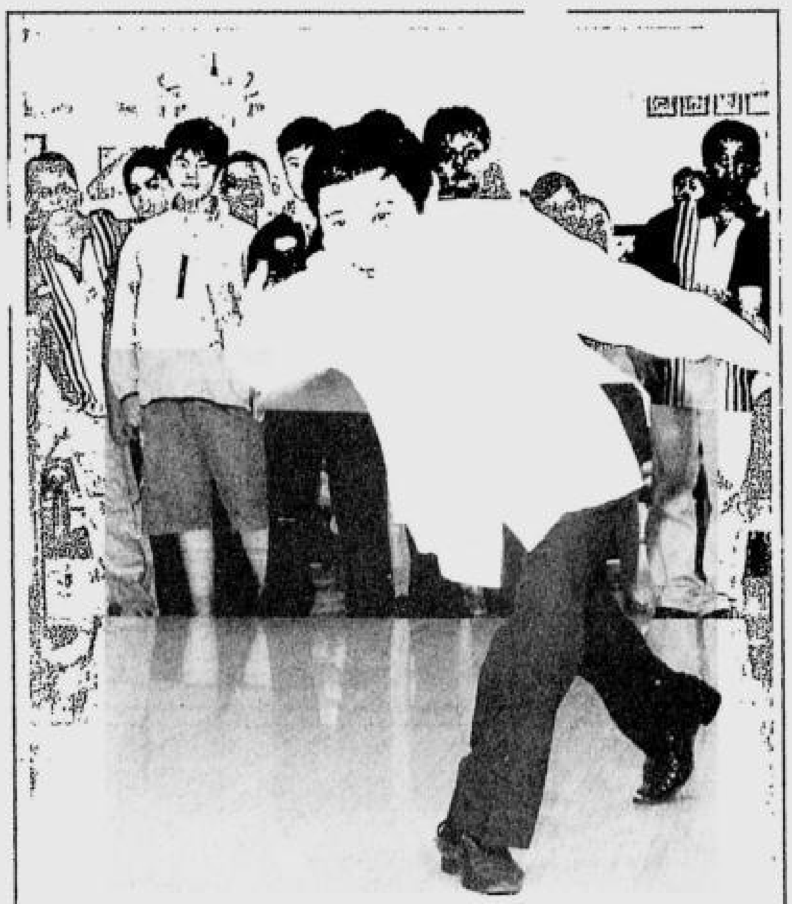
THE PACIFIC POKER PALACE Cup kicks off Sept. 29 with over P1.5 million at stake at the Airport Casino Filipino.

Ben dela Cruz of Pacific Poker Palace said entry fee is P30,000 with one optional rebuy of P20,000.

Satellite games for the Pacific Poker Palace Cup is everyday.

Dela Cruz said P100,000 tournaments is every Thursday and on 22. There will be P50,000 tournaments every Tuesday.

For inquiries, visit pacificpokerpalace.com or call 8338542, 8541305, 09202225939.



CEREMONIAL BALL

Philippine Bowling Congress executive vice president Jaime Dychauco touches off their 11th Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association tournament by rolling the cermonial ball. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LSGH spikers score

LA SALLE-GREEN HILLS CAME back strong in the second and third sets to beat Hope Christian School, 16-25, 25-13,25-12 in the Petron Treats Boys Volleyball League.

The win gave LSGH a 2-0 slate on bracket B.

San Sebastian College overpowered Chiang Kai Shek, 25-12, 25-13, giving it a 2-0 record to tie Canossa Academy in bracket A of this league supported by Shakey's, Toby's, Dunkin Donuts, Mikasa and Asics.

Claret School posted a 25-13 25-19 victory over St. Anthony to take a 4-1 record in bracket D.

University of the East whipped PIQC, 25-15 25-20, for a 4-0 slate in bracket B. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Tañamor, Tipon, Payla banner Ostrava squad

TWO-TIME OLYMPIAN HARRY TAÑAMOR AND DOHA ASIAN GAMES gold medalists Joan Tipon and Violito Payla will spearhead the Philippine boxing team that will see see action in the Grand Prix Ostrava to be held in the Czech Republic's third largest city. The week-long slugfest to be participated in by top boxers from Europe and Asia will serve as training for the upcoming World Championships, according to Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Amateur boxers tangle in 30-match series

AT LEAST 60 AMATEUR BOXERS WILL FIGHT IT OUT IN 30 MATCHES when the PCSO Amateur Boxing Series kicks off its September schedule today at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Leading the field are Abap national pool members Bill Vicera, Michael Paragoso, Orlando Tacuyan Jr. and Joegen Ladon. Vicera squares off with Paragoso and Tacuyan Jr. tangles with Ladon. The amateur boxing event will be featured at a later date on the weekly program, "Fistorama" over NBN-4.

Pinoy Backyard Breeders group holds first derby

THE NEWLY-FORMED PINOY BACKYARD BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (PBBA) holds its first cockfight derby at the Cainta Fair Center Coliseum today. The special 3-stag derby beginning at 5 p.m. offers P300,000 to the winners. As bonus, a "fastest win" award worth P10,000 will also be handed out. The list of entries include Kabilang sa STCA Saknong, PR Titans and Brian K entry. For more details, call 655-3334.

Newcomers take centerstage at Sta. Ana Park

PROMISING NEWCOMERS, BOTH LOCAL and imported highlight today's rich race stakes for two-year-olds at the Sta. Ana Park.

General Onay heads the field in the P450,000 PCSO Special Maiden race, a 1,450-meter event for first-time starters previously known as the PCSO Sweepstakes Race.

Fresh off his victory in the PCSO Trail Race last Sept. 4, the "island born" galloper will race under the banner of businessman-sportsman Hermie Esguerra.

Expected to provide a serious challenge for the top spot is Luna Rossa, an entry from the Jose Quiros Racing Stable by Conquistarose out of Siete Legues.

Others in the hunt for the P300,000 top pot are Twin Turbo, Fearless Ninz, Enjoyable, Aspirations and Sir Frederick.

Meanwhile, six up-and-coming two-year-old imports from the US will get a chance to show their wares in the P800,000 Philracom Imported Stakes Race over 1,450-meters.

Weder Weder Lang from the US is expected to be highly-rated coming off a rousing debut performance over 900-meters two weeks ago at the same track.

The filly zipped the 900-meter distance in her first official start on local track.

Owned by Jan Micheal Santos and trained by veteran Jose "Bojie" Fernandez, Weder Weder Lang can expect a good challenge from fellow US-bred Frolic, Chowder Head, Fierce Fighter, Brazhovic and Angel Eunice.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Pali (2), Wonders Miss (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Carry Over (11), Royal King (10), Think Tank (12), Gobernadora (5), Elevenian Queen (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Spinning Bullet (6), Cool Cielo (3), Red Hot Water (4), Striking Thunder (1)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Happy Again (6), Collective Dreams (7), Shy Girl/Ad Infinitum (5), Project Six (1), Record Holder (2)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—General Onay (9), Fearless Ninz (3), Luna Rosa (2), Twin Turbo (5)
Race 6—Just Decision (6), Fold Your Arms (8), White Diamond (1), Prime Zone (10), Grand Homer (5)
Race 7 (Tri) Weder Weder Lang (1), Brazhovic Angel Eunice (2), Chowder Head (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lord Elgene (10), Bahng Ganda (3), Run Like O'Wind (7), Manila's Smile (9), Bachelor Of Arts (8)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Landed Visa (8), Unleashed (1), Now Showing (2), Queen Banana (5), Blue Sheikh (4)
Race 10—(Tri)—Arctic Desert (5), Toowoomba (4), Big Spender (1)
Race 11—Sir Barbaro (5), Just Superb (2), Devil In Disguise (7), Super Elegant (4)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Raise A Dancer (4), Ingay Ingay (8), Burst Of Speed (5), Lord Brian (2), Mas Que Nada (7)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sa Wakas (3), Dancing Slew (11), I Don't Dance (4), Look Of Love (6), Bird In Hand (5), Kaligatan (9)

Umbrellas trigger 'storm' in presscon

In Huddle

Beth Celis

GMA-7 PUBLICity officer Barbette Atienza was still in a good mood when I first talked to her early yesterday morning, just before the scheduled 9 a.m. "sendoff" press conference for Manny Pacquiao.

Barbette, who used to cover the sports beat for print, said she had just arrived at Gourdo's, site of the presscon jointly hosted by GMA 7 and Solar Entertainment, who were also signing a contract that day for the television coverage of the Pacquiao-Barrera fight in Las Vegas on Oct. 7.

I promised Barbette I would show up, even if it was a column day and I would have to skip my 11 a.m. radio program.

However, just as I was getting ready to go, it started raining cats and dogs. I decided to abandon all plans of leaving the house.

***

After lunch, I called up Barbette for an update. This time, though, she no longer sounded cheerful. Usually an easygoing person, Barbette was very angry, exasperated and ready to wage war.

In between grunts and deep sighs, Barbette informed me that the "Will to Win" fight card would be aired live—well, almost, give or take a few minutes on radio and television.

Other scribes who attended said the presscon was really one big sendoff for Pacquiao.

The big story, according to one of the scribes, was that Barbette was mobbed by some guests over umbrellas.

***

The way I understand it, work for this presscon was divided between Solar and GMA 7. Solar was supposed to invite the sports media while GMA 7 took care of entertainment beat reporters.

What neither group had not expected was the appearance of gatecrashers—entities who claim to be members of the media but are not. They present all sorts of fake IDs with strange sounding publication names at the reception desk.

But they usually manage to get into even the most exclusive media conferences.

It's easy to spot them. They usually eat the equivalent of three meals in one sitting and make sure there are leftovers to stow away in a plastic bag.

If they're lucky, they even manage to extort some cash from VIPs. These entities are collectively called "haoshiaos."

***

Anyway, when the "haoshiaos" saw that Barbette was giving away umbrellas to the media, they rushed over to her, each one demanding an umbrella from her, too.

Barbette, who by now is familiar with their faces, recognized them and politely refused.

All hell broke loose as the fake media people screamed and raved, leaving Barbette with no choice but to give each of the haoshiaos an umbrella. In exchange for her life.

No wonder Barbette was in a fighting mood when she got back to the office..

***

It was just like old times when I visited the PBA office in Libis last week.

Familiar faces like those of OIC Sonny Barrios and former legal counsel Butch Cleofe, who was also visiting, greeted me.

Sonny was busy preparing the budget for the 2007-2008 season that will be presented to the board during the first meeting in Macau, and the new playing rules which will have to be formally approved.

It's true that chair Tony Chua reports regularly at the PBA. He was there too, when I visited. Had his hands full with paperwork.

Incidentally, while Solar will produce the opening day extravaganza of the PBA this October, it will still be ABC 5 that will air it.

Pacquiao a hot favorite

Odds still tilted towards Filipino boxing superstar

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—IT'S UNUSUALLY COLD HERE, but scorching odds favoring Manny Pacquiao to repeat over Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera in their next encounter have remained unchanged as the Filipino boxing superstar returns today to this charming capital where all the great things started for him.

Trainer Nonoy Neri, who sidelines as nutritionist, went to Chinatown to get live native chicken, in place of the frozen grocery variety, for Pacquiao's favorite tinola dinner; team assistant Alex Obero pitted the mattress with fresh linen, but there's no new movement over the betting windows where Pacquiao has remained an overwhelming minus-350 favorite.

Plainly put, the Sportsbook posting says a $350 bet on Pacquiao would pay only $100, while a hundred bucks on Barrera would yield $250, with the money difference unchanged since Pacquiao last departed from here on Aug. 10.

Pacquiao, who has totalled 111 rounds of sparring in Cebu City, was declared hundred per cent ready by his trainer.

There's no scheduled Pacquiao activity here Sunday but he's set to resume full-blast training—a long morning jog and afternoon gym duties—Monday for the final push in preparation against the 33-year-old Barrera, who has been tipped to come at his fiercest best.

"Pacquiao has always been on my mind, an ugly thorn on my side," Barrera has been quoted as saying.

Passion for revenge

Barrera's consuming passion for revenge has become the main theme of the rematch and has helped build the fight into a sure blockbuster.

But based on the views of experts, not to mention the established facts, Barrera will have to ride on make-believe to convince himself he can turn the tables on Pacquiao, who knocked him out in Texas four years ago.

"Everything ready," fight teacher Eric Brown hollered from the counter of the Wild Card gym shortly before lunch yesterday.

There has been a hunger for Pacquiao here, where he has become the top attraction, as evidenced by the many calls asking about the date of his return.

The crafty, battle-scarred Barrera, tipped by Pacquiao as the hardest puncher of all Mexicans he has fought, lost the WBC 130-lb. crown to Juan Manuel Marquez last March.

Pacquiao, for his part, had a tentative start, got cut with a headbutt, before jumping in to crush and stop the unbeaten Jorge Solis in Texas last April.

Their careers had taken separate paths, and it took four years to arrange the rematch, during which Pacquiao moved onto a higher plain, both in skills and physicality.

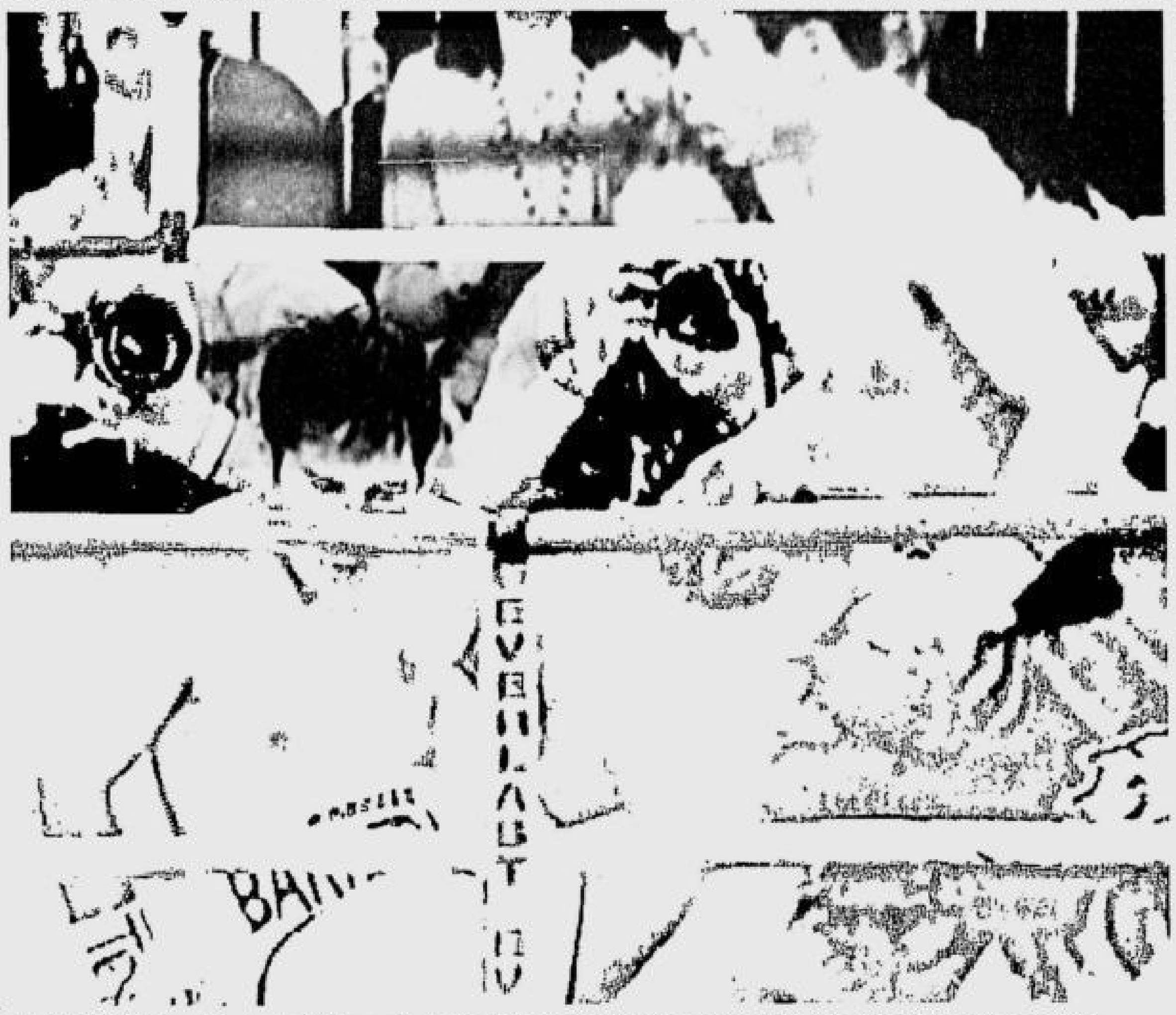
But, without bothering to elaborate, Barrera swore he would report to the fight with renewed vigor and a special technique.

Pacquiao kept mum but his trainer, Freddie Roach, went direct to the point about the core of their anti-Barrera plot.

"We will make him work every minute of every round," Roach told the Inquirer, while explaining Barrera is incapable of peak performance for an entire three-minute round.

Who knows? Maybe Barrera has found a potion in his secluded training camp in Guadalajara that could restore the vigor in his legs, which disobeyed and failed him in the closing rounds of his title defense against Marquez.

Fall came a little early, a freakish storm sent temperatures dipping—from 100 degrees the other week to 60 degrees yesterday—but the weatherman said Monday would be mild and sunny, perfect for Pacquiao when he runs in the morning, before driving to the gym in his black XL550 Mercedes two-seater, which was given the check-up and a four-mile test-drive through cold, drizzly streets here.



IF REPORTS coming out of Marco Antonio Barrera's training camp are true, then Manny Pacquiao should find his rematch going the same way as the first bout. PDI PHOTO

Barrera knocked out?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF REPORTS ARE ACCURATE ENOUGH, MANny Pacquiao should have no problem finishing off Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas two weeks from now.

The latest buzz out of the Mexican's camp could be ominous: Barrera was knocked out by a sparmate in Guadalajara, Mexico.

That was the report passed around during yesterday's send-off breakfast for Pacquiao at Gourdo's in The Fort.

He refused to comment about it, going his usual route and declaring that he will be 100 percent fully charged for his super featherweight rematch against the "Baby-Faced Assassin" on Oct. 7 at the Mandalay Bay.

"*Hindi natin alam kung ano ang mangyayari sa* fight, *pero sigurado akong gagawin ko ang lahat* (I can't say what will happen in the fight except that I'll give it my best shot)," Pacquiao quipped flashing a smile that matched the shine of his gold Rolex wristwatch and diamond-stud earring.

At one point of the press conference, his imported sparring partners, Mexicans Sugar Ray Beltran and David Rodela, vouched for Pacquiao's preparedness, citing how the Filipino boxing icon's punches were like swings from a baseball bat.

"We still have 26 hellish rounds with him," said one of the sparmates who worked out with Pacquiao after the presscon at the Wild Card gym in Parañaque.

They were to join him and trainer Freddie Roach late last night on a flight to the United States for the homestretch of his training.

"He's my favorite fighter of all time," said Roach, who also denied previous weeks' reports that he sent out spies at Barrera's camp.

"I don't have any spy. We don't need any spy," added the trainer.

Pacquiao knocked out Barrera in the 11th-round during their first date in November of 2003, a result that practically put the Filipino in the radar of megabuck fights.

Lascuña eyes Fortis slot

LASCUÑA

KUALA LUMPUR—TONY LASCUÑA IS HOping a return to his favorite hunting ground will bolster the Philippines' hopes in the Fortis International Challenge at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club next week.

Lascuña will partner Gerald Rosales and bid for one of five tickets at stake to the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November against 19 other two-man nations from Asia, Europe and Africa.

A return to Malaysia will bring happy memories as Lascuña triumphed in a local event earlier this year and then finished runner-up in the Iskandar Johor Open last month.

"I believe in my partner Gerald as he has a very good game and I am confident we can go on to qualify for China," said Lascuña, who was unsuccessful in his first qualifying campaign in 2000.

Lascuña has produced some sparkling golf in recent times where he was also tied third in the Brunei Open earlier this month.

Now that he has virtually sealed his top-60 place on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit which will give him full playing rights for the 2008 season.

Interschool kart race listing slated

AFTER DRAWING A HUGE FIELD OF entries at La Salle last week, the registration for the 3rd TRS Interschool Kartfest moves on to the College of St. Benilde this week from Sept. 24-29.

The students may enter as a team of six at the registration booths that will be set up in various schools and malls for the event organized by Tuason Racing School (TRS).

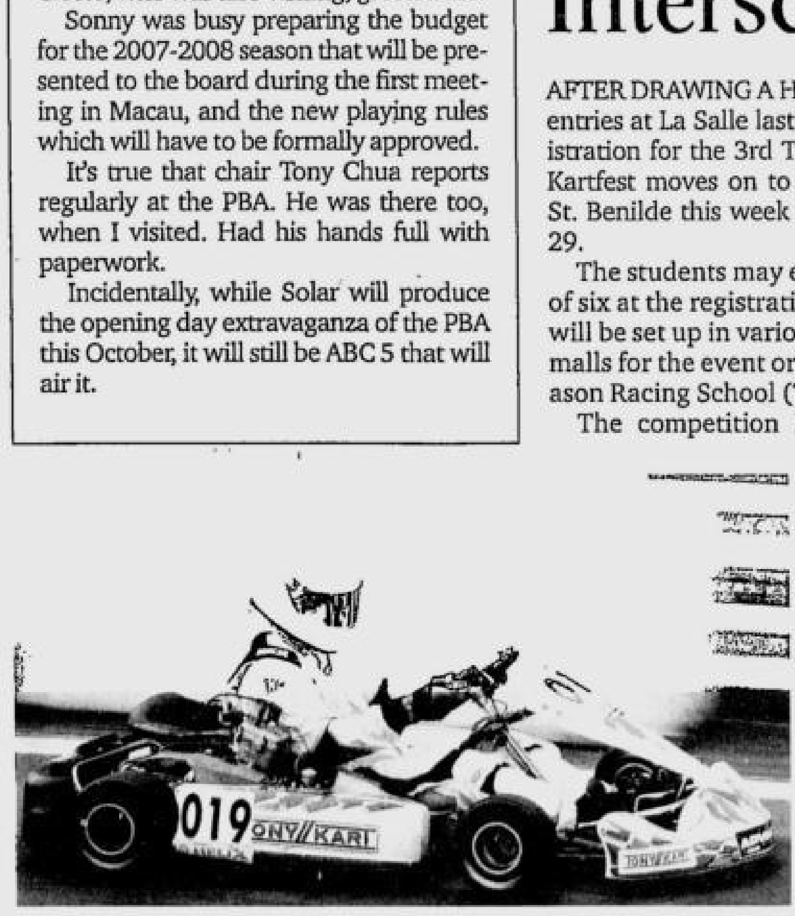
The competition has two categories—the team endurance race and the individual sprint race. The endurance teams that achieve the best lap times will represent their school and advance to the finals where they will go head-to-head with the other school teams in a two-hour race. The fastest karters from each school will battle in a 10-lap sprint race.

The Interschool Kartfest is a site where students can represent their school in an event where sportsmanship, camaraderie and team spirit are in play.

Other participating schools include St. Benilde, Ateneo, Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Don Bosco Makati, San Beda Alabang, Kalayaan College, Mapua, UP, Asia Pacific College, and University of Asia & the Pacific.

For details, call 8177795 or email info@tuasonracing.com.

Casimiro joins Italy event



MIKE Casimiro breezes through a practice round.

MIKE CASIMIRO OF 02KART RACING WILL be leaving for Italy as the Philippines' ROK Seniors bet to the 2007 ROK World Cup set Oct. 11-14, at the South Garda Karting Track in Lonato.

Casimiro was chosen after emerging the current overall leader in the ROK Seniors division of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship. Teammate Ken Monzones will be joining him in Italy after placing second overall in the ongoing 2007 Shell Helix Super Karting Series.

"We're eyeing at least a podium finish," said Casimiro. "It's a big challenge going up against more experienced rivals. This is a fight for the national flag and we'll do our best."

Aside from being the Asian Karting Open Rok Seniors leader, Casimiro continues to preserve his grip of solo leadership in the Shell Helix Super Karting Series.

Casimiro is also third overall in the premiere Formula 125 Seniors Open behind the frontrunning Stefano Marcelo and the second-running Matteo Guidicelli.

RP Int'l golf show starts next month

LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS OF THE WORLD'S biggest brands in golf will join the 12th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 19-21 at Megatrade Hall 2, Level 5, Bldg B of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Close to fifty companies involved in the distribution of golf products as well as service providers and media entities are putting their new lines on display before another expected banner audience.

"There's no more space available and we're ready to go," declared Gerald Raymundo, President of the organizer, Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines and Golf Show Chairman Ana Herrera.

Sponsors are pouring in with the special participation of the world-renowned American Eye Center as silver sponsor and Revicon Max, Metrobank Platinum and Megatrade Hall as bronze sponsors.

Media partners are Solar Sports Network, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inquirer Golf Magazine and Golf Digest Philippines. Inquirer Golf and Golf Digest are also launching their joint website, pilipinasgolf.com, during the show. For details call 8451324 or visit golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

BARRY Bonds will leave his heart in San Francisco, and nothing else. After surpassing Hank Aaron's homerun record, Bonds bid farewell to the Giants, saying the team asked him to leave. AP

SF Giants say goodbye to Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS is finished in San Francisco.

The Giants told Bonds they will not bring him back next season, ending an era in which he became the career home run champion and a lightning rod for the steroids debate in baseball.

"It's always difficult to say goodbye," Giants owner Peter Magowan said Friday. "There comes a time when, I think, you have to move in a different direction."

On his website, Bonds said he wasn't done.

"There is more baseball in me and I plan on continuing my career. My quest for a World Series ring continues," he said.

Magowan told Bonds in person Thursday night.

"I think he knew the decision was coming. I don't think it was surprising to him. I think, naturally, he was disappointed," Magowan said.

"I do believe he's the greatest player of his generation, one of the greatest players of all time. And it was a great advantage to have a player of his caliber on our team for all those years."

The 43-year-old Bonds broke Hank Aaron's record with his 756th home run on Aug. 7. Bonds has spent the past 15 seasons of his 22-year big league career with the Giants, and signed a $15.8 million, one-year contract for this season.

But he hasn't played since Sept. 15 because of a sprained right big toe, and he wasn't in the Giants' lineup Thursday night for the opener of what probably will be his final homestand with San Francisco, which signed him as a free agent in December 1992.

Shadowed by steroid speculation for the past few years, Bonds has hit 28 homers this season, raising his career total to 762. The seven-time NL MVP was batting .279 with 66 RBIs.

Prior to the toe injury, he had been mostly healthy, playing 125 games going into this weekend. The left fielder had 2,935 career, hits before Friday night's game against Cincinnati.

Despite Bonds' personal achievements, the season has been a disappointing one for the Giants, who are mired deep in last place in the NL West.

"We've heard for a long time that the Giants are an old team and want to get younger, so we're not surprised," said Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris. "Barry is their oldest player, but qualitatively, he's their best player."

"He's still planning on playing next year, irrespective of whether it's an AL or NL team," he said.

Bonds has long denied using performance-enhancing drugs, but fans across the country have greeted him with placards inscribed with asterisks—baseball-fan shorthand for the belief that his record is hopelessly tainted by allegations of steroid abuse.

Even the person who paid $752,467 for Bonds' historic 756th home run has threatened to stamp it with an asterisk.

In a statement, Bonds said he believes the Giants made the decision long ago not to bring him back for next season.

"Although I am disappointed, I've always said baseball is a business, and I respect their decision," Bonds said. "However, I am saddened and upset that I was not given an earlier opportunity to properly say goodbye to you, my fans, and celebrate with the city throughout the season as I truly believe this was not a last-minute decision by the Giants, but one that was made some time ago."

Bonds had said he wanted to finish his career in the comfort of his hometown, where his father, Bobby, played alongside his godfather, Willie Mays.

"I would have loved nothing more than to retire as a Giant in the place where I call home and have shared so many momentous moments with all of you," he said. *AP*

DOPING FALLOUT

UCI names Pereiro new Tour champ

PARIS—OSCAR PEREIRO IS OFFICIALLY the champion of the 2006 Tour de France. Sort of.

The UCI, cycling's governing body, declared the Spanish cyclist the winner Friday, after arbitrators upheld results of a test that showed Floyd Landis, who had finished first, used synthetic testosterone.

"Following the decision of the competent American authority to sanction the American cyclist Floyd Landis for doping, and in accordance with the International Cycling Unions regulation, the Spanish rider Oscar Pereiro is declared winner of the 2006 Tour de France," the statement said.

"The UCI has informed both the rider and the organizer of the event."

But Tour de France organizers say Pereiro will not get his crown quite yet—until it becomes clear whether Landis will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He has a month to do so.

"Oscar Pereiro will be the winner of the 2006 Tour as soon as all the appeal procedures will be over," Christian Prudhomme, the Tour de France race director, told Associated Press Television News.

"We feel a bit like Oscar Pereiro, who said himself that he would have preferred to have won under different circumstances," Prudhomme said.

The decision by arbitrators means Landis, who repeatedly has denied using performance-enhancing drugs, is also subject to a two-year ban, retroactive to Jan. 30.

The Landis case has dragged on for 14 months, and Prudhomme said he hoped cycling authorities would learn to handle such cases more quickly. *AP*

Utah Jazz, Kirilenko part ways

SALT LAKE CITY—UTAH JAZZ FORward Andrei Kirilenko is set to walk away from $63 million remaining on his NBA, the Salt Lake Tribune reported Friday.

After translating an interview given to Russia's Sport Express newspaper, the Tribune reported Kirilenko said he is ready to leave the NBA and would most like to play in Moscow, leaving behind his big-money deal for his homeland.

"I am prepared to go without it," the Tribune quotes Kirilenko as saying. "This is a lot of money, even for an NBA club. So what? Maybe this money could go to pay for more players or for something else.

"I have never been unfair and I don't want to enjoy something that I don't deserve. Big money is obviously good but I'm prepared to make less. The size of my salary doesn't mean that much to me. The main thing is to play with a spark.

"I am ready for anything. I just need to leave Utah Jazz." *AFP*

THERE will be no title celebrations between Andrei Kirilenko and the Jazz. REUTERS

Jankovic snaps Davenport's comeback streak

BEIJING—JELENA JANKOVIC ENDED the eight-match Asian win streak of Lindsay Davenport, halting the American's career comeback, 6-3, 7-5, to reach the final of the China Open on Saturday.

The semifinal victory provided sweet revenge for the Serb second seed, who came up short in an ill-tempered quarterfinal to the 31-year-old Californian in Bali eight days ago, an event Davenport went on to win.

Jankovic earned her first victory against Davenport after four defeats and now stands just one win from her fifth title of the season.

The second seed will play on Sunday against the winner from Hungarian sixth seed Agnes Szavay and China's last hope Peng Shuai, competing in a semifinal at home for the second year in succession.

However Davenport will return more than satisfied to California with her three-month-old son Jagger after proving to herself this month that she still has the game to compete with the elite on the WTA.

The three-time grand slam winner retired after Beijing a year ago, ready to devote time to starting a family. By the time she gave birth last June, she was ready to give her sport another try.

By all accounts, her Bali title last weekend—the 52nd of her career—and this week in Beijing will have convinced her to return to the court.

She has said she will play a final event this season in Quebec, Canada, before making a decision about whether to resume her career from early 2008.

Jankovic had to fight to get the job done at the Beijing tennis center in a second set littered with service breaks in six of the last eight games.

The 22-year-old Serb finally closed out the win in 90 minutes after losing her own serve four times and breaking Davenport on six occasions. *AFP*

Big names light up Davis Cup matches

Federer, Roddick, Djokovic hammer out victories

FEDERER REUTERS

LONDON—SWEDEN AND GERmany rallied Friday to ensure their Davis Cup semifinal matches will be decided on the final day.

Thomas Johansson beat James Blake to put Sweden even at 1-1 in its best-of-five series against the visiting United States, and Philipp Kohlschreiber did the same for Germany against defending champion Russia by defeating fourth-ranked Nikolay Davydenko.

In the Davis Cup playoffs, Roger Federer earned a point for Switzerland at the Czech Republic, Novak Djokovic did the same for Serbia against Australia, and Tim Henman won what could be his final competitive singles match to help Britain take a 2-0 lead over Croatia.

The Americans, who own a record 31 Davis Cup titles, took a 1-0 lead when Andy Roddick beat Joachim Johansson 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in Goteborg. But Thomas Johansson pulled a point back by defeating Blake 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Russia got its first point in the opening match, with Igor Andreev beating Tommy Haas 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. Kohlschreiber then gave the Germans a point by defeating Davydenko 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Roddick broke Joachim Johansson for the only time in the match to lead 4-3 in the third set. The American, who finished with 30 aces, then held at love for the 11th time to close out the match. Johansson had 23 aces.

Thomas Johansson, a former Australian Open champion, broke Blake's serve on his second break point to lead 3-1 in the fourth set. That was all he needed, holding his serve the rest of the way.

Davydenko had a chance to lead 5-2 in the third set but he wasted three break points. After holding serve in that game, Kohlschreiber broke the Russian in the next to get back to 4-4.

Federer, making his 2007 debut in the Davis Cup, beat Radek Stepanek, 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), with a spot in next year's World Group on the line.

"It was a very tough match in the end, but it did not look it at the beginning," Federer said.

Tomas Berdych made it 1-1 for the Czechs by beating Stanislas Wawrinka, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 7-5.

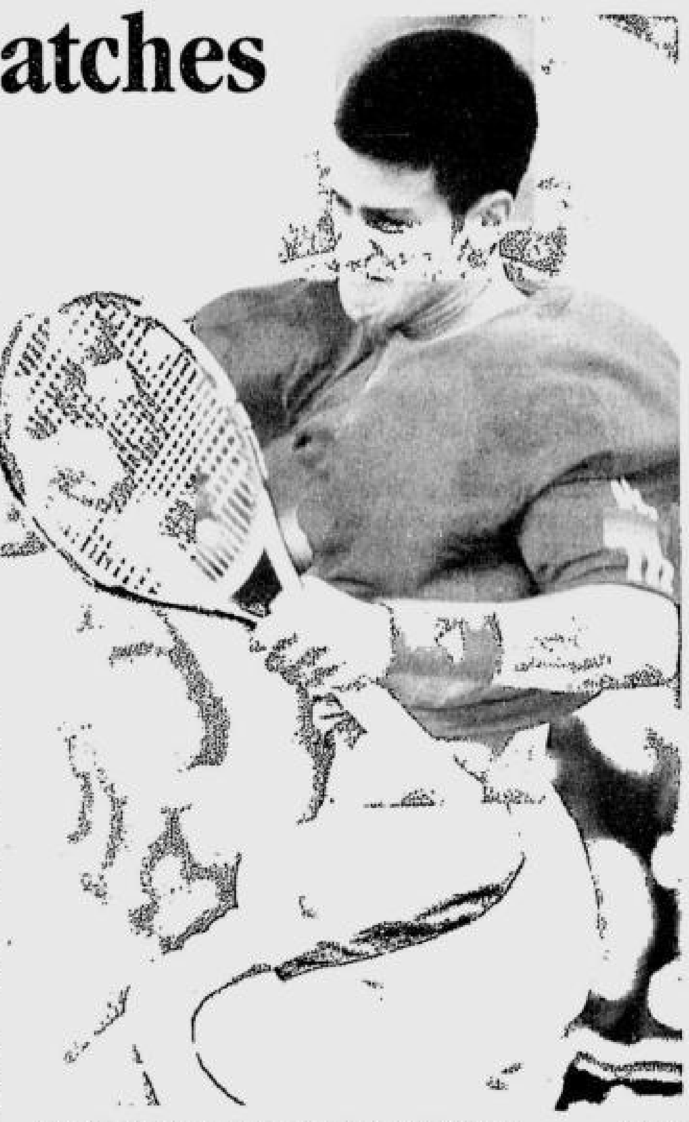
In September 2005, Federer helped Switzerland beat Britain 5-0 in the playoffs and did the same in a 4-1 win over Serbia last year.

Djokovic easily beat Peter Luczak, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, to give Serbia the lead, but Lleyton Hewitt put Australia back in the series by beating Janko Tipsarevic, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Djokovic broke Luczak twice and lost only two points on his serve in the first set.

"I must admit that I was more nervous today then when I played the US Open final," said Djokovic.

Playing at Wimbledon one last time before retirement, Henman beat Roko Karanusic, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, in the second singles match. *AP*



DJOKOVIC: More nervous than in US Open. REUTERS

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At 70, 'lolo' trader won't call it quits

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHAT ARE 70-YEAR-OLDS SUPPOSED TO do?

A lot of people would say that they should have stopped working at 65.

But others think otherwise. One of them is Edilberto B. Bravo who, at 70, is very much into business.

"This is my passion. I don't do it because I want another car. I help people. I provide jobs," says Bravo, chair of U-Bix Corp., the distributor of Konica Minolta copiers in the Philippines.

FIRST JOB

"Bert," as he is more known, employs over 4,000 people. He cofounded U-Bix Corp. with Enrique Belo, the father of famed liposuction surgeon Vicki Belo. But he also owns Service Masters, a 10-year-old janitorial services and custodial work firm that employs 3,200 people.

No slowdown

He also owns Grappa's, the Italian restaurant, which he set up simply "because I love food."

And last Aug. 1, he acquired the Kodak Imaging Center Philippines. Bravo definitely has no plans of slowing down.

WITH wife, Fei, daughter-in-law Sarah (left), granddaughter Bianca, daughter Mary Ann and granddaughter Lara

> Edilberto Bravo should be enjoying his retirement. Instead, he intends to continue working and providing jobs

He has renamed KiC into the U-Bix Data Center and plans to be aggressive in the business process services. With 350 employees, Bravo wants to grow this business from its current levels of about P120 million.

He also plans to expand the Center to serve foreign clients. What it does is provide microfilming, document scanning, database creation and management, and offshore encoding and data entry.

U-Bix is one of the top three providers of essential mail printing and letter shopping. What this means is it generates credit card statements, which are printed in huge volumes, but each is different from the other. The same goes for phone bills.

On the scanning side, there remains a huge amount of documents that need to be converted into film or digital forms. This provides a big opportunity for the data center.

Humble beginnings

Bravo did not start out as a businessman.

After growing up in Capiz, he went to Manila for his law degree in the University of the Philippines. His parents were public school teachers in his hometown.

After law school he joined the law firm of Ponce Enrile (father of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile) but after a few years, he ventured into the business world and was accepted in the Citibank Executive Training, which counts among its graduates many past bank presidents such as the late Rafael Buenaventura, Edward Go and Xavier Loinaz.

While working with Citibank, Bravo managed to put up a small business supplying Fuji photocopy paper to companies where his friends worked.

He says he capitalized this with P5,000 but left the task of managing the firm to his wife, Felina Aldecoa, as he was working full-time with the bank.

Initially, he was supplying Fuji Xerox paper. But when the Japanese took over the firm, he was left in the cold as the firm now went direct to the clients. A few years later, in 1972, he decided to pursue the business, becoming the exclusive distributor for Konica Minolta printers and copiers.

He partnered with Belo who also came from Capiz and set up U-Bix for P50,000.

Irony in business

U-Bix grew. Today it has 22,000 machines leased out all over the country. The irony of it, he says, is that despite the advances in technology and all the buzz about going paperless, people still need photocopiers.

He says the copying business has grown from about P100 million 12 years ago to a billion peso sector today.

Bravo says color made the difference. With color copiers, businesses want their reports and presentations in color. With a P10 difference in a page of black and white and color copies, this still spells out big business.

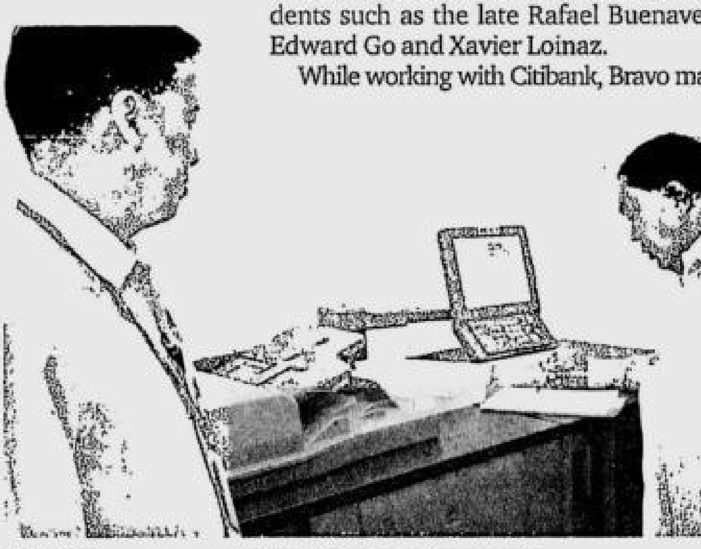
Bravo is not stopping any time soon.

He says his being a lawyer helped him in his path to entrepreneurship.

"The UP Law School disciplines you to focus and to think of the point of view of the opponent. When you become a businessman you see things from the other person's perspective," he said.

His current preoccupation is building a golf course (he is a big golf player) in the province. Guided for the past 20 years by a spiritual director, some of his friends had urged him to build a chapel in the place. He did.

He feels his way of paying back is employing more people. "I love Service Masters—look at the number of people who earn from me."



BRAVO inspects a new Konica Minolta copier machine

BRAVO with granddaughter Bianca

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7-Eleven opens doors to young entrepreneurs, early retirees

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORP., THE LICENSOR of world-renowned 7-Eleven, once again re-invents the franchising system that opens the door for early retirees and budding entrepreneurs and take part in the highly successful 24-hour convenience store business.

Dubbed the service agreement system, the revamped scheme introduces a more affordable way for interested franchisees to become part of the 7-Eleven family.

"With the service agreement, the operator functions as a store manager, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the store, aside from having a stake in the success of the business," said Aimee Lim, PSC franchise division public relations spokesperson.

Lim said the investment requirement of the service agreement system ranges from a low of P700,000 to about P1.5 million, depending on the store's historical performance. This makes the franchise option less costly than PSC's full franchise packages, along with the advantage of acquiring a store that already has a historical track record of sales and performance.

"The service agreement model is more affordable since they only have to shell out a fraction of the cost of a full franchise, but they still get to operate a world-class brand coupled with support systems that made PSC number one in the convenience store industry for 25 years" Lim added.

Under the service agreement, franchisees will get 40-percent share of the profit with the rest of the pie going to the PSC.

Cost of store operations will also be shared between the two parties, with PSC handling merchandise cost, 60 percent of electricity and the monthly rent of the store while the franchisee takes care of operating expenses.

7-Eleven is available for franchise in La Union, Baguio, Olongapo, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Cavite, and Metro Manila. For inquiries, call 726-9968, 0920-9508651 or visit www.7-eleven.com.ph.

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6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
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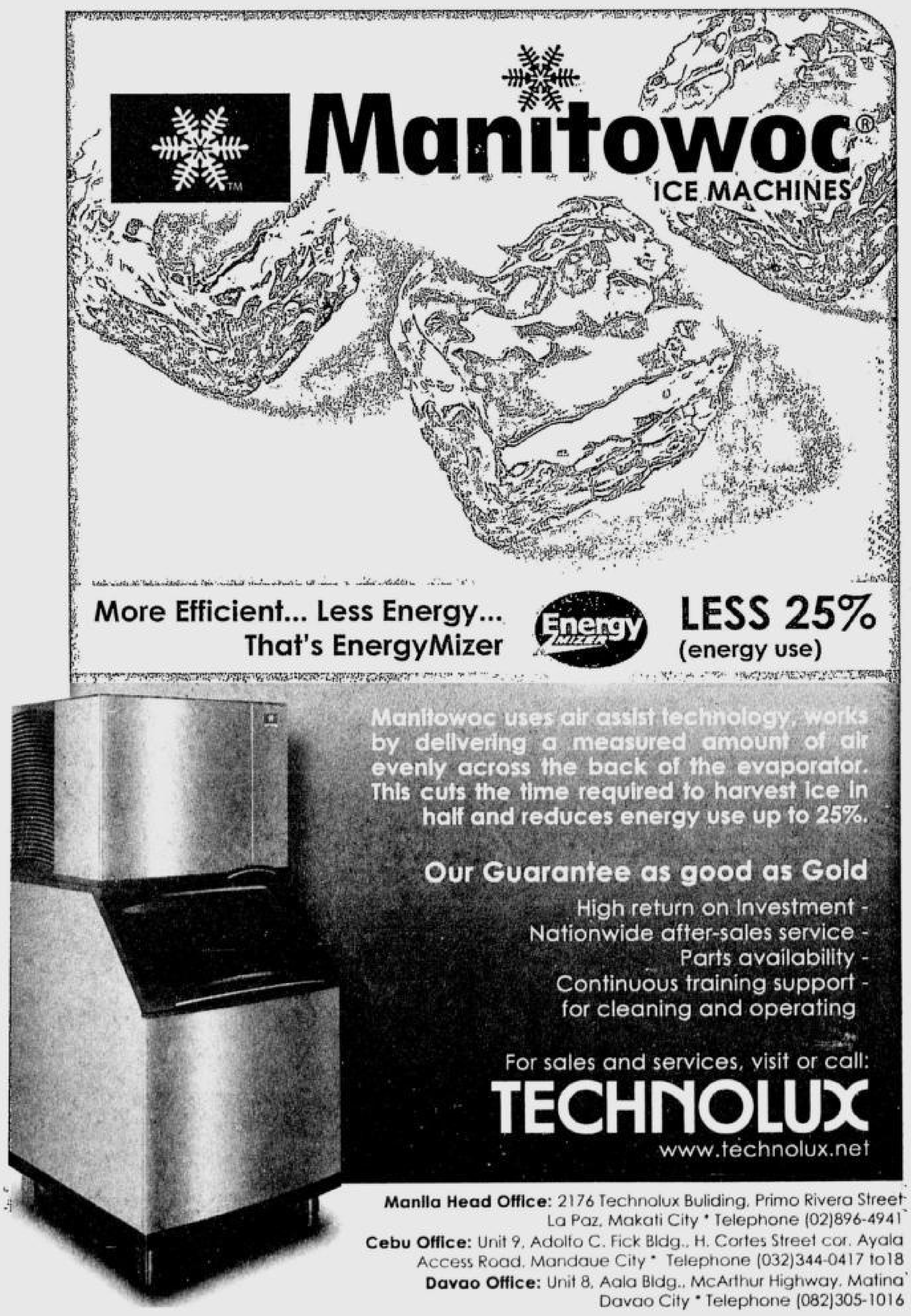

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Leadership lessons from the modern-day hero

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

HE WALKED AWAY FROM $1 million a year. He forfeited the luxury and status afforded to a professional football star. In a nation where athletes are worshipped, he chose the anonymity of serving his country halfway around the world.

Ultimately, Pat Tillman sacrificed his life to protect the United States.

What can we learn from the man who may be America's most well-known casualty in the war on terror? More than can be written in a simple article, certainly, but three lessons stand out:

1. A leader chooses purpose over perks.
2. The glory of a leader is to sacrifice for the common good.
3. A leader's sacrifice may not be compensated with rewards.

Purpose over perks

Leaders don't allow dollar figures to dictate how they make decisions. Rather, leaders dig within to bring out the best they have to offer to the world—regardless of the compensation. Also, they aren't seduced into settling for a life of luxury. Leaders have a burning passion to make a difference. As a result, they willingly put themselves on the front lines (literally in Tillman's case) to be in the place of greatest responsibility.

Pat Tillman had been offered a three-year, $3.6 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals football team before he enlisted in the army. He could have cashed in on it, retired in his early 30s, and lived comfortably the rest of his life without ever setting foot in Afghanistan.

Yet, Pat Tillman was a leader, and he wasn't about to compromise his sense of duty. He loved his country, and he recognized his talents would be well-suited to serve US interests on the battlefield.

"Pat knew his purpose in life," said Dave McGinnis, Tillman's former coach with the Cardinals. "He proudly walked away from a career in football to a greater calling."

Sacrifice for common good

In America, we are quick to assert our individual rights and slow to exercise our responsibility to the community. The generations who persevered through the Great Depression and the World Wars are passing from the stage. We are reaping the benefits of their sacrifices without having to endure their hardships.

Perhaps for this reason, we feel a sense of entitlement. We feel like the world owes us a life of ease and affluence. Children expect to be paid allowances, and teens assume they'll be handed keys to a new car when they turn 16. We feel deprived without wireless Internet, TiVo, and HDTV.

Counter to modern culture, leaders know no entitlement. They think in terms of creating rather than consuming. They value corporate welfare above individual security. Pat Tillman's life bears out this philosophy. In his mind, it was unthinkable to enjoy life in the USA while soldiers protected his freedom abroad. He felt compelled to be the protector, not the one enjoying the benefits of protection.

No pay, no rewards

Tragically, Pat Tillman gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country. His selflessness and bravery led to his death on the battlefield.

Leaders cannot be certain of the costs their sacrifice will require of them. For every soldier who stands victoriously after the war has been won, another soldier lies lifeless on the battlefield. Many times, a leader pays the ultimate price with no reward but the hope of bettering the lives around him or her.

Pat Tillman was an American hero. His life serves to remind us of the tremendous sacrifices we may be asked to make as leaders. Also, his story brings to mind the courageous men and women serving overseas. We thank them for their sacrifice, and we wish them safety and a speedy return home.

(For information on John Maxwell 's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from Maxwell.)

Business tips from Asia's 'Mr. No Frills'

HE WAS A HIGH-FLYING CORporate executive from a global music brand six years ago. Then only 37, Malaysian Tony Fernandes drove a company Jaguar, listened to a $10,000-stereo system in his office, and hobnobbed with recording stars and entertainment executives as Warner Music's top honcho in Southeast Asia.

Then he went "crazy." He quit Warner, mortgaged his home, and sank his lifetime savings into a Malaysian airline that had racked up an $11-million debt even before 9/11. To Fernandes, it was the realization of a boyhood dream to own an airline; to his peers in the corporate world, it was like jumping off a plane without a parachute.

"Most people thought I was crazy," he says. "When we started, they said it wouldn't work. They said we would die."

Fernandes not only survived the costly plane ride; he thrived. His Air Asia is now an international carrier world-renowned for revolutionizing Southeast Asian air travel as Asia's first budget carrier.

Its no-frills business model has spawned copycats among Southeast Asian airlines offering low-cost fares and forced Asian skies open.

Fernandes is arriving in Manila as one of the 13 global business leaders and visionaries speaking at the 6th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) International CEO Conference at the Makati Shangri-La on Oct. 2-3.

"This will be a rare occasion for Philippine business to learn valuable lessons from Mr. Fernandes' strategies in turning around a company from bankruptcy into one of Asia's most imaginative airline," said conference chair Evelyn R. Singson.

How does he do it? Here are some tips from someone who started with zero experience in running an airline and is now redefining travel in the Asia-Pacific.

1. It's all about passion. He wanted to start Malaysia's first discount airline a few years ago, but he couldn't get a license. He found a way to get to then-Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and sold him the idea of having a discount carrier that could revolutionize Asian air travel and boost tourism in the midst of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

2. Hire people who share your passion. Fernandes says look for people for their ability, talent and passion.

3. Have a good corporate culture. "We have to remain humble. We have to remember our roots. Too many companies forget their beginnings and that is where it all goes wrong," he says.

Those interested to see and hear Fernandes and other top business leaders and visionaries shaping today's global business may register online for the 6th MAP International CEO Conference at www.mapceoconference.com or call the MAP secretariat at telephone numbers (632) 751-1149 to 52.

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Text 09267666746

SAM_GSC314 COMM'L LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 7,501 sqm FA 4,697 sqm
(BESIDE China Bank)
SANTIAGO BOULEVARD, Bario Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P96,759,750

SAM_GSC316 AGRI LOT
LA 18,369 sqm
(Near Tinagacan Proposed Market Site)
BARRIO TINAGCAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,474,783

SAM_GSC318 RSDL LOT
LA 1,470 sqm.(w/n Roca Subd.)
BRGY. APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P624,750

SAM_GSC320 IND'L LOT
LA 30,997 sqm.(near former MSU Rd)
BARRIO TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P10,440,258

SAM_GSC321 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm.
(Near Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant)
MANANSALA SUBD.., Brgy. San Isidro,
Min. Bid Price:P3,412,450

SAM_GSC322 RSD'L LOT
LA. 360 sqm.(back of Horizin Tin Can)
DON GABRIEL SUBD..Bo. of Tambler
Min. Bid Price: P306,000

SAM_GSC324 COMM'L LOT W/ STALL
LA 600 sqm. FA 18 sqm
(front of Phela Grande Convention)
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price:P2,550,000

SAM_GSC326 IND'L LOT
LA. 10,304 sqm.,
BO. OF TAMBLER (MCU Rd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 2,189,600

SAM_GSC327 RSD'L VACANT LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
NATIONAL HIGHWAY Brgy. Sinawal
Min. Bid Price: P3,400,000

SAM_GSC330 RSDL LOT
LA 457 sqm
(near Gen. San City Terminal)
BULAONG SUBD.. Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price:P914,000

SAM_GSC331 RSDL LOT
LA 5,000 sqm
(near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)
Brgy. Rd. Purok 18,LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC332 HOUSE & LOT
LA 598 sqm FA 103 sqm
Bluefin cor. Goldfish Sts.
ESPINA SUBD.. Purok Mauswagon,
Brgy. Labangal(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price:P893,775

SAM_GSC334 RSDL LOT
LA 749 sqm(near Pacheco Subd.)
AQUINO SUBD., Purok Kaunlaran
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:P636,650

SAM_GSC335 COMM'L LOT
LA 274 sqm FA 274 sqm
(fronting Notre Dame of Dadiangas Univ.)
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price:P3,493,500

SAM_GSC338 RSDL LOTS
LA 2,061 sqm.
Zone 2-B, Bula
Min. Bid Price: P1,224,909

SAM_GSC339 COMM'L LOT
LA 778 sqm.
(Fronting former Bayfront Noodle House)
P. Acharon Blvd. cor. Salazar & Veterans Sts., BRGY.DADIANGAS SOUTH
Min. Bid Price:P11,242,100

SAM_GSC341 COMM'L LOT
LA 1,109 sqm
CALUMPANG AVE., Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P4,092,559

SAM_GSC343 AGRI LOT
LA 20,293 sqm.
Packing One, SLAUGHTER HOUSE RD.
Min. Bid Price:P1,724,905

SAM_GSC344 RSDL LOT
LA 694 sqm
(near Gen.San Cockpit Arena)
National Highway, BO. OF APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P648,890

SAM_GSC345 HOUSE & LOT
LA 389 sqm FA 161 sqm
(near Notre Dame College)
Balagtas Street, BO. DADIANGAS
Min. Bid Price:P1,155,967

SAM_GSC346 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 425 sqm.
Dalandan St., w/n DADIANGAS HTS.
Min. Bid Price: P745,035

SAM_GSC348 HOUSE & LOT
LA 451 sqm FA 248 sqm
(meters away from Desmark Motors)
ROXAS ST.(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price: P7,291,373

SAM_GSC350 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 3,303 sqm FA.830 sqm.
(nea Medoz Pension Jazz House)
MORALES SUBD., Bo. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P4,138,501

SAM_GSC351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 645 sqm FA 194 sqm
ROSAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P2,768,875

SAM_GSC352 HOUSE & LOT
LA 476 sqm FA 122 sqm
(near Alphine Subd.)
AVILA SUBD. Brgy. San Isidro,Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P 641,296

SAM_GSC353 AGRI LOT
LA 76,229 sqm(Near St. Peter Chapel)
Lanton. BO. OF SINAWAL
Min. Bid Price: P10,270,031

SAM_GSC355 INDS'L LOT
LA 19,663 sqm.
(near MGTK Fishing Industry)
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P7,186,827

SAM_GSC356 HOUSE & LOT
LA.598 sqm FA 220 sqm.
(near Eduard Cocolumber)
Purok San Vicente ESPINA,
Min. Bid Price:P805,662

SAM_GSC358 IND'L LOT
LA 20,000 sqm.
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC359 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm(Near Holy Cross Parish)
CATAPANG HTS. SUBD., Brgy. Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P340,000

SAM_GSC361 HOUSE & LOT
LA 302 sqm FA 70 sqm.
Mangustan St. BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,220,618

SAM_GSC365 SUBD. LOTS w/ IMPRVT
LA 6, 585 sqm FA 1,700 sqm
(Near Iglesia Ni Cristo)
CELCARY SUBD. Brgy. Bula
Min. Bid Price:P12,078,190

SAM_GSC366 RSDL APARTMENT
LA 199 sqm FA 123 sqm
PUROK BAGONG SILANG Labangal
Min. Bid Price: P422,875

SAM_GSC367 WHOLE SUBD. W/O DEVELOPMENT
SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES, Conel Rd
Lagao (near w/n Brgy. Makar)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,801 sqm. (5 lots)	P 2,040,000
66, 441 sqm. (5 lots)	P 29,087,425
97,474 sqm.(4 lots)	P 41,246,000

SAM_GSC370 HOUSE & LOT
LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm
Mangustan St. BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,682,240

SAM_GSC373 AGRI LOT
LA 11,694 sqm. (Near Shrineville Subd)
Farm Road, BRGY. LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P2,981,970

SAM_GSC466 IND'L LOT
LA. 16,248 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY CALUMPANG, Brgy. Makar
Min. Bid Price: P41,883,560

SAM_GSC467 IND'L LOT
LA. 13,544 sqm.
Makar-Siguil Rd., New Bohol, CALUMPANG
Min. Bid Price: P18,650,088

SAM_GSC468 COMM'L LOT
LA. 206,346 sqm.
Bo. Lamcanal, MALANDAG
Min. Bid Price: P7,639,163

TAGUM
Text 09267666746

SAM_TGM411 AGRI LOT
LA 4, 328 sqm
(Near Univ. of Southeastern Phil.)
Brgy. Apokon, PUROK V
Min. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM_ TGM415 INDS'L LOT
LA 6,000 sqm
(Near San Vicente Ferrer Chapel)
APOKON
Min. Bid Price:P4,080,000

SAM_TGM423 RSD'L BLDG.
LA 225 sqm FA 172 sqm
(Near Queen of Apostle Seminary)
Prk. Sampaguita Rd. 1,
MAGUGPO WEST
Min. Bid Price:P478,125

SAM_TGM428 AGRI RICEMILL
LA 1, 757 sqm.
PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabangan,
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM429 2STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA 600 sqm. FA 240 sqm.
PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabangan,
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM431 AGRI RAW LAND
LA 23, 441 sqm.(near UMTagum Coll.)
VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P6,973,898

SAM_TGM434 HOUSE & LOT
LA 181 sqm FA 38 sqm.
(Near Apokon Brgy. Hall)
GEMINI VILLAGE, Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P265,750

SAM_ TGM436 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm
MEL VILLAGE, Brgy. Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P2,407,554

SAM_TGM437 COMM'L LOT
Quirante II St. PRK. LAPU-LAPU,
Magugpo(near JVC,back of JS Gaisano)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
3,001 sqm.	P 25,508,500
1,646 sqm.	P 6,995,500

SAM_TGM439 RSDL LOT
LA 450 sqm (Near Methodist Church)
PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P573,750

SAM_TGM440 RSD'L LOT
LA 3,000 sqm (New Life Ministryes Chapel) PUROK ORANGE VALLEY,
Magugpo South
Min. Bid Price: P6,375,000

SAM_TGM449 RSD'L LOT
LA 556 sqm. (meters away from Dalisay Gante Rd.) PUROK VIPATIL
Min. Bid Price:P378,080

SAM_TGM450 RSD'L/COMM'L BLDG
LA 379 sqm FA 514 sqm
SOBRECAREY ST.
Min. Bid Price:P5,106,117

SAM_TGM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 7, 456 sqm FA 106 sqm
(near YBC Store)
DOMINGO SUBD., Magugpo Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P6,337,600

SAM_TGM456 AGRI LOT
LA 3, 827 sqm
(Near Nichols Homes Subd.)
Purok Buli, VISAYAN VILL.
Min. Bid Price: P1,301,180

SAM_TGM460 RSDL LOT
LA 477 sqm.(near DANECO Office)
Briz District, MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price:P1,013,625

SAM_TGM463 RSD'L LOT
LA 300 sqm.(near Magsanoc Vil.)
PUROK ABACA, Brgy. Mankilam
Min. Bid Price:P382,500

SAM_TGM464 RSD'L LOT
LA 250 sqm.
(Near Phil. Benovolent Missionary)
SENAGOTE VILL., Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price:P531,250

SAM_TGM469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 259 sqm FA 141 sqm
(Near Brgy. Hall w/n Gemini Village)
GEMINI VILL.,Brgy. Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P405,750

SAM_TGM470 COMM'L BLDG
LA 18, 830 sqm FA 2, 117 sqm
(near First Consolidated Bank)
PAGSABANGAN RD., Brgy. Mankilam,
Min. Bid Price: P22,609,859

SAM_TGM476 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 315 sqm.
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P1,277,203

SAM_TGM477 HOUSE & LOT
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price
750sqm	400sqm	P 1,616,713
1,066sqm	192sqm	P 2,265,250
1,406sqm	400sqm	P 2,987,750

SAM_TGM481 RSD'L LOT
VISAYAN VILLAGE (near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,500 sqm	P 9,562,500
1,236 sqm.	P 2,626,500
1,512 sqm.	P 3,213,000
1,648sqm	P 3,502,000
2,338 sqm.	P 4,968,250
7,014sqm.	P 5,961,900

SAM_TGM482 AGRI LOT
LA 12, 580 sqm.
(near Clausio Inse.Sicat Cockpit Arena)
BRGY. CANOCOTAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,138,600

SAM_TGM484 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm
(meters away from Christ the King Chapel) Suaybaguio Road,
BRGY. LA FORTUNA
Min. Bid Price:P431,123

SAM_TGM492 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 119 sqm.
Purok Malinawon, MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price: P4,502,875

SAM_TGM493 AGRI LOT
LA. 62,900 sqm.
BRGY. CANOCOTAN (San Isidro)
(near Sicat Cockpit Arena)
Min. Bid Price:P21,386,000

SAM_TGM495 12 RSD'L LOTS
LA 15,610 sqm
Purok Cacao, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P6,634,250

SAM_TGM497 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 24, 022 sqm FA 1, 062 sqm.
Tagum-Kapalong, Provincial Rd.,
BRGY. PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P20,418,700

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Text 09217388885

SAM_CDO215 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,590 sqm. (200 meters away from Cagayan De Oro Oil Company)
BRGY. AGUSAN
Min. Bid Price: P777,000

SAM_CDO 216 RSDL LOT
LA. 413 sqm
Ramoncita Velez St., APOVEL SUBD.,
Bulua District
Min. Bid Price: P935,000

SAM_CDO217 RSDL LOT
LA 785 sqm. (near City Engineering Ofc)
FAIRLANE SUBD. Kauswagan
Min. Bid Price: P645,000

SAM_CDO220 RSDL LOT
BRGY. CARMEN(near NIA Office)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
600 sqm.	P 282,925
1,409.10 sqm.	P 949,212

SAM_CDO221 AGRI LOT
LA. 28,907 sqm.
(near Women's Dev't Center)
BRGY. CANITO-AN
Min. Bid Price:P3,685,643

SAM_CDO225 RSDL LOT
LA. 500 sqm. (inside Agapi Drive Subd.)
Tibasak, MACASANDIG
Min. Bid Price: P625,000

SAM_CDO227 COMM'L LOT
LA. 442 sqm. (adjacent to Xavier Univ.)
HAYES ST. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P4,763,913

SAM_CDO228 COMM'L LOT
MAKAHAMBUS Burgos St. Pob.
(Near FaithTabernacle Churh)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
349 sqm	P 1,794,000
618 sqm	P 3,177,000

SAM_CDO230 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 306 sqm. FA. 406 sqm.
(fronting Ma. Reyna Hospital)
Arch. S. Hayes St. Ext.
BRGY. CAMAMAN-AN
Min. Bid Price: P3,298,094

SAM_CDO231 AGRI LOT
LA. 47,975 sqm.
(near Catanico Elem. Schl.)
Catinaco, SINONOP DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,077,875

SAM_CDO232 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,021 sqm.
(inside Villa Ernesto Subd.)
VILLA ERNESTO SUBD.. Phase 2, Gusa
Min. Bid Price:P743,688

SAM_CDO233 RSDL LOT
LA. 27,929 sqm.
(near Bulabal Elem. Schl.)
BALUBAL
Min. Bid Price:P4,747,930

SAM_CDO235 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,130 sqm. FA 338 sqm
Super Highway, KAUSWAGAN
Min. Bid Price:P4,304,497

SAM_CDO236 RSDL LOT
LA. 10,344(near Rosewood Subd.)
BRGY. CAMAMAN-AN
Min. Bid Price:P2,635,170

SAM_CDO237 2-STY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,662 sqm FA. 173 sqm.
(across the property of Oro Rama Mega Center) LAPASAN
Min. Bid Price: P8,310,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM_CMP240 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,204 sqm. FA. 505 sqm.
(near Rural Bank)
Judge E. Chavez St.
POB. NABUNTURAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,433,152

SAM_CMP241 RSDL BLDG.
LA. 300 sqm.
Malasugan-Panag Rd. Brgy. Panag
Bo. Katipunan, NEW BATAAN
Min. Bid Price:P255,000

SAM_CMP244 RSDL LOT
LA. 7,727 sqm.
Penaranda cor. Gen. Ebuen Sts.
POBLACION MONYAKO
Min. Bid Price:P16,419,875

DAVAO
Text 09198209662

SAM_DAV 251 AGRI LOT
LA. 39,366 sqm (near San Agustin Chapel) Sitio Ramihan, TORIL
Min. Bid Price: P13,089,195

SAM_DAV252 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,334 sqm.(near Pilipinas Ave.)
Zamboanga cor. Samal Sts. INSULAR VILL.,PII, Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P8,087,604

SAM_DAV254 COMM'L LOT
LA. 20,884 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY Brgy. Dumoy
Min. Bid Price: P6,205,769

SAM_DAV255 RSD'L/COMM'L LOT
LA. 157 sqm. (near University Of Immaculate Concepcion) Bonifacio St.,
STA. ANA DISTRICT
Min. Bid Price: P2,402,100

SAM_DAV256 RSD'L LOT
LA. 300,000 sqm.
Brgy. Baliok DIST. OF TALOMO
Min. Bid Price: P56,461,108

SAM_DAV257 RSD' L LOT
LA. 90,473 sqm. (near Davao Holy Trinity)
Brgy. Road, BRGY. BAGO GALLERA
Min. Bid Price: P31,665,000

SAM_DAV258 IND'L LOT W/ HOUSE
LA. 18,823 sqm. FA. 122 sqm.
National Highway, Bago Aplaya,
DUMOY, Toril
Min. Bid Price:P31,999,100

SAM DAV261 VARIOUS COMM'L BLDG
LA. 6,760 sqm FA. 3,944 sqm.
(near Ecoland subd.)
QUIMPO BOULEVARD, Matina
Min. Bid Price: P60,000,000

SAM_DAV263 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
Diamond St. NACILLA SUBD.
Brgy. Ma-a Talomo
Min. Bid Price:P1,062,500

SAM_DAV269 RSDL LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price:
196 sqm.	P 499,800
430 sqm.	P 1,096,500
3,017 sqm.	P 6,924,015
3,204 sqm.	P 7,353,180
6,351 sqm.	P 24,236,946

SAM_DAV270 HOUSE & LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist. (near Club House)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price
200sqm	217sqm	P 3,689,000
299sqm	217sqm	P 2,766,750

SAM_DAV272 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,209 sqm.
Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way/Rd Lot 3
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P8,182,950

SAM_DAV273 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 7,828 sqm. FA. 8,356 sqm.
(along Diversion Rd.) Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL. BUHANGIN
Min. Bid Price:P66,577,100

SAM_DAV274 2 STRY. COMM'L LOT w. WAREHOUSE
LA. 8,453 sqm. FA. 3,484
(beside Greenheights Subd.)
ZUELIG PHARMA BLDG.. Diversion Rd.
Min. Bid Price:P86,220,600

SAM_DAV276 6-UNITS 2-STRY TOWNHSE
LA. 748 sqm. FA. 206
GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL.
BUHANGIN
Min. Bid Price:P21,012,000

SAM_DAV280 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
BO. PAMPANGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM_DAV281 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 894 sqm. FA. 90 sqm.
(right behind Farmacia Sta. Ana, Matina)
STO. NINO COMMUNITY, Brgy. Matina
Min. Bid Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV285 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,417 sqm.
Upper Piedad, TORIL DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P14,000,350

SAM_DAV286 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,562 sqm (near Pilipinosas Subd.)
San Vicente, PANABO
Min. Bid Price: P640,000

SAM_DAV291 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 806 sqm. FA. 216 sqm.
Near Poblacion Brgy. Hall
ELPIDIO QUIRINO AVE.
Brgy.4 Pob. Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P8,060,000

SAM_DAV292 RSD' L LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm.
NAT'L H-WAY, Bago
Min. Bid Price: P12,394,796

SAM_DAV294 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,044 sqm. (near NIA Rd)
Brgy. Del Pilar, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price:P2,045,610

SAM_DAV296 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 600 sqm FA. 81sqm.
(near Alliance Learning Center)
Brgy. Road, Poblacion, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price: P450,000

SAM_DAV298 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 14,214 sqm. FA. 360 sqm.
(along MATI Nat'l Highway)
BRGY. BAGUMBAYAN, Lupon
Min. Bid Price:P1,914,996

SAM_DAV299 INDS'L LOT
LA. 94,687 sqm
Davao - Agusan Nat'l. Road
Brgy. Mahayag, BUNAWAN DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P224,881,625

SAM_DAV301 AGRI LOT
LA. 74,632 sqm.
BRGY. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P31,718,600

SAM_DAV303 RESORT LOT
LA. 66,285 sqm
GULF VIEW EXEC. HOMES, Ph II
Bago Aplaya, Talomo

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
165 sqm.	P 249,750
200 sqm.	P 270,000

SAM_DAV304 3 STRY COMM'L /OFFICE BLDG
LA 820 sqm F.A. 1,796 sqm.
(near BPI San Pedro)
SAN PEDRO ST., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P16,000,000

SAM_DAV307 AGRI LOTS
LA. 477,481sqm.
BO. MATINA PANGI
Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

SAM_DAV465 RSDL TOWNHOUSE
LA 280 sqm.
GREEN HTS. GARDEN VILL.
BUHANGIN (near Club House)
Min. Bid Price: P4,760,000

KIDAPAWAN
Text 09157470332

SAM_KID374 AGRI LOT
LA 12,474 sqm
BRGY. PACO Kidapawan
Min. Bid Price: P1,060,290

MISAMIS
Text 09217388885

SAM_ MIS469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 11,378 sqm FA 238 sqm
ALUBIJID, Misamis Oriental
Min. Bid Price: P1,934,260

NORTH COTOBATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_NCT376 AGRI LOT
LA 49, 538 sqm
National Rd., Brgy. Manubuan, MATALAM
Min. Bid Price:P3,825,000

SAM_NCT377 RSDL LOT W/ PIGGERY
LA 15,000 sqm FA 1,320 sqm
Brgy. Katidtuan, KABABACAN
Min. Bid Price: 2,550,000

SOUTH COTABATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_SCT378 INDS'L LOT W/ MOTORPOOL
LA 3,000 sqm FA 330 sqm
LIGTAS VILLAGE, Cannery Rd.,
Polomok(near Tropiland Pawnshop)
Min. Bid Price: P2,550,000

SAM_SCT380 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,064 sqm(near Sto.Nino Parish)
M. ROXAS BLVD. EXT.,
Poblacion, Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price:P904,400

SAM_SCT381 AGRI LOT
LA 8, 640 sqm
STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P1,468,800

SAM_SCT382 RSD'L LOT
LA 13, 477 sqm(near Sto.Nino Nat'l Town Hall) POB. STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P5,727,725

SAM_SCT383 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,651 sqm FA 278 sqm
Bonifacio St., POB. NORALA
Min. Bid Price:P817,696

SAM_SCT384 HOUSE & LOT
LA 22, 687 sqm FA 176 sqm
(near Bonzo Ricemill)
Bo. Simsiman, POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975

SAM_SCT385 HOUSE & LOT
LA 340 sqm FA 145 sqm
POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P 336,786

SAM SCT386 RSDL LOT W/ WAREHOUSE
LA 2, 581 sqm
POBLACION STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: 2,193,850

SAM_ SCT387 HOUSE & LOT
LA 798 sqm
Rosal St. Brgy. POB. SURALLAH,
Min. Bid Price:831,260

SAM_SCT470 RSD'L LOT
Barrio 8, KORONADAL

LA	Min. Bid Price
2,128 sqm.	P 904,400
2,701 sqm.	P1,377,425

SAM_SCT471 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,050 sqm.(near Agan Subd.)
Amurao, KORONADAL
Min. Bid Price:P446,250

SAM_SCT472 HOUSE & LOT
LA 409 sqm FA 101 sqm
(near Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital)
H. DEPITA SUBD.., Koronadal
Min. Bid Price: P521,475

SAM_SCT473 RSD'L LOT
LA 3, 241 sqm
Barrio 8, KORONADAL
Min. Bid Price:P1,377,425

SAM_SCT474 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,073 sqm. FA. 170 sqm.
PUROK SAMPAGUITA Pob.Sto. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P4,560,250

SULTAN KUDARAT
Text 09157470332

SAM_SUL396 COMM'L LOT
LA 225 sqm(near Metrobank Tacurong)
NATIONAL H-WAY, Pob. Tacurong
Min. Bid Price: P1,147,500

SAM_SUL397 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 642 sqm.(near Metrobank)
BO. DANSULI, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P2,245,700

SAM_ SUL398 AGRI LOT
LA 1,128 sqm.(near Faustina Chapel)
BO. KALAWAG 1 EXT., Isulan,
Min. Bid Price:P 242,520

SAM_SUL399 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm. FA 107 sqm
Buencamino cor. Tiongco Sts.
BO. KALWAG 1 Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P1,347,260

SAM_SUL400 2 STRY COMM'L BLDG.
LA 750 sqm FA 533 sqm
QUIRINO AVE..,Poblacion,
Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price:P5,052,227

SAM_SUL401 HOUSE & LOT
Molave cor. Flores Sts.
(near Esperanza Mun. High Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min Bid Price
423sqm	370sqm	P 1,797,750
405sqm	163sqm	P 3,442,500

SAM_SUL402 AGRI LOT
LA 10,161 sqm
(infront of Ezperanza High Schl.)
Molave Ext., POBLACION, Esperanza
Min. Bid Price:P1,368,951

SAM_SUL403 RSDL BLDG
LA 607 sqm FA 114 sqm
Dona Sts. POB. ESPERANZA
Min. Bid Price:P998,320

SAM_SUL406 HOUSE & LOT
LA 494 sqm FA 148 sqm
(near RCBC Isulan) Along Municipal Rd.
KALAWAG III, Isulan,
Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

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For assignment in CDO or Cabanatuan City

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For assignment in CDO or Cabanatuan City

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids in the bidding of the following requirements, viz:

a. one (1) unit SURPLUS SKW DUMP TRUCK as specified
b. one (1) unit SURPLUS 10 WHEELER DUMP TRUCK as specified

Estimated Lot Price: P 2,440,000.00

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax #: (035) 422-8895.

Bid forms will be made available right after the **Pre-Bid Conference** scheduled on **October 3, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City. The **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **October 16, 2007**, at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – September 23, 2007)

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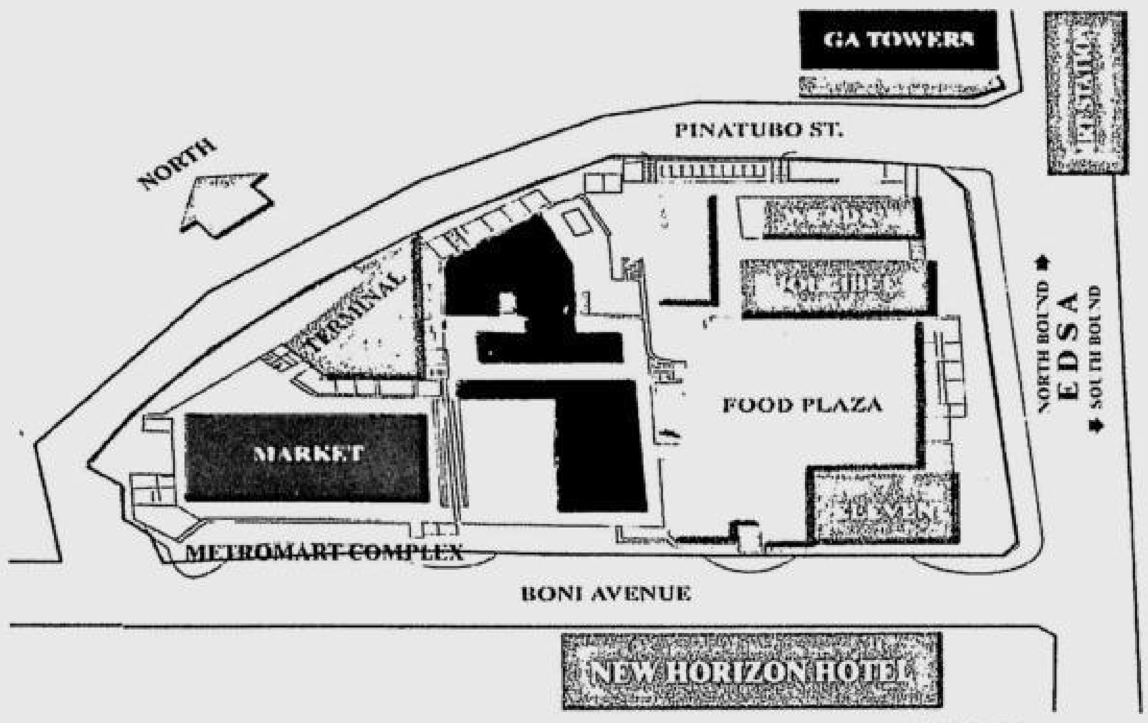
PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



Vicinity Map

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below:

Description	: Commercial Complex
Area	: 7,428.0 square meters
Address	: Along EDSA cor. Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City
Floor Price	: P 426,977,000.00
Terms of Sale	: Cash or Installment (Best Offer)

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 09, 2007, Friday at 2:00PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00PM on November 29, 2007, Thursday.
6. The property is available for inspection to all bidders during business days and hours from Mondays to Fridays.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 / 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Assistant Project Head, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

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CANADA / CAREGIVER	12:00 PM	PhP 1,000	PhP 1,200
UNITED STATES (USA)	2:00 PM	PhP 1,250	PhP 1,500

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TRUCKERS

(who have been good all year) to help spread **volume of Christmas Products** from its Marikina and Cavite plants to the Greater Manila Area and the Luzon Provincial Areas.

We're making a list, and checking it twice. If you fit the description, then that would be nice!

Truck Type	AUV's/Trucks (1.0-10.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	October 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007

To find out how you can bring Christmas to town and earn from it, contact:

MR. PERRY C. RUTAQUIO
At the following address and telephone numbers:
THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 253, 257, 258 and 340
Fax Number 645-4535 and 646-9556
Cellular No. 0917-8050116

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules (GSD-07-54317)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through its Annual Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso 42,800,000.00 for the Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules (GSD-07-54317). Supply and Delivery of the GOODS required for each schedule is stated below. The description of an eligible Bidder is certained in Section II, Item 5.1 of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Schedule	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in PHP	Delivery Schedule
I	Three (3) units Boom Truck Four (4) Units Light Truck 4x4	23,900,000.00	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days from Contract effectivity
II	Seven (7) Units Pick-Up 4x4 One (1) Unit Sports Utility/High-Official Function Vehicle	10,400,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract effectivity
III	Ten (10) Units Passenger Wagon	8,500,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract effectivity

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, and organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest of outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in Item 10 starting **September 17, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated in item 10 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 5,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 2, 2007, *9:00 A.M.*** *at C.U. Del Rosario Hall A, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in Item 8 on or before **9:00 A.M.** of **October 16, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III, Item 22.1 of the Bidding Documents, BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **October 16, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at *C.U. Del Rosario Hall A, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the biding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat at the following address:

Mr. R. D. Nabong
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos.: (632) 921-2308, 981-2212, 981-2213; Telefax No.: (632) 981-2308

(Sgd.) NOEL Z. DE LEON
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 15 & 23, 2007)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II)** is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of materials/equipment specified for the following projects:

I. **SUBSIDY PROJECTS:** Extension of Lateral Line for the Electrification of Brgy. San Juan Sta. Marcela, Sitio Tomas, Maura, Aparri and Purok Sinamar, Libertad, Abulug, Cagayan.
   1. Wood poles, concrete poles
   2. Construction hardwares, wires, transformers

II. **CAPEX PROJECTS**
   1. 69KV TX Line
      a. Woodpoles
      b. Suspension Insulators (glass, porcelain, polymer)
      c. Fault indicator
   2. Substation
      a. Current Transformers, Insulating Class 69KV
      b. CT Rated Power Quality Meters

III. **5% REINVESTMENT PROJECTS:** Rehab/Revamp Upgrading Along Distribution Lines
   1. Woodpoles, Concrete poles
   2. Wires, construction hardwares, compression connectors, insulators
   3. Fault indicators

IV. **METER FIX**
   1. CT Rated Kwh Meters
   2. Duplex Wires

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   a. Company Profile
   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of clients for a period of three (3) years
   g. Financial Statement
   h. Compliance with the must technical specifications
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal for most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expense or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirement - October 08, 2007.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 23, 2007)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that PROPERTY COMPANY OF FRIENDS, INC. with office address at 55 Tinio Street, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Developer of Low-cost Mass Housing Project (The Alcove at Ridgecrest) on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of 387 Low-cost mass housing units with project/plant site located at Molino, Bacoor, Cavite and Pasong Buaya II, Imus, Cavite.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation
and Registration Department

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2007)

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Headstrong will have its Open House Recruitment for IT professionals (SAP programmers, ABAP programmers, Java Developers, Technical Writers, etc) on Monday, Sept. 24, from 9 AM to 6 PM at its Manila Global Delivery Center in Makati City. Walk-in applicants will be processed on the same day. Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply. For further details on the event, please refer to the ad released on the Job Market section (J4) of this paper.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investment Building
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that CHENSHIN CORPORATION is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Expanding Producer of Smoked Fish for Export on a Non-Pioneer status with a capacity of 2,000 MT per year with project/plant site located at Ngilay Road, Tambler, General Santos City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RUDY B. CAÑA, RPAE
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Dept.

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370
Kalaw:
528-0213; 527-3342
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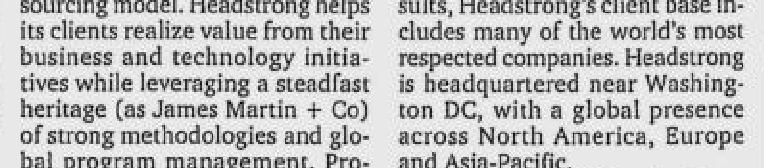
635-0219; 635-0220



TELETECH SPONSORS PMAP CONFERENCE

Teletech recently signed an agreement with the People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) to be one of the Major Sponsors of the 44th PMAP Annual Conference scheduled on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Shown are (from left) Jo Buot, Teletech's director for Human Capital Delivery; PMAP Ways and Means Committee chairperson Lina A. Aseneta; PMAP Treasurer Julie M. Miteria, PMAP President Mark O. Go, Maulik Parekh, Teletech VP and Gen. Manager–Asia; Teletech's executive director for Human Capital Penny Bongato; and Me Anne Batallones, Teletech's director for talent acquisition.

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LEGAL

Notice is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late ARCADIA R. IMPELIDO who died on May 18, 2005 was Extrajudicially Settled By & among Her surviving Heirs on Sept. 15, 2007 before Notary Public ATTY. GREGORIO T. VITERBO, JR. of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 299 Page No. 61 Book No. VII series of 2007.
(PDI-Sept. 16,23 & 30, 2007)

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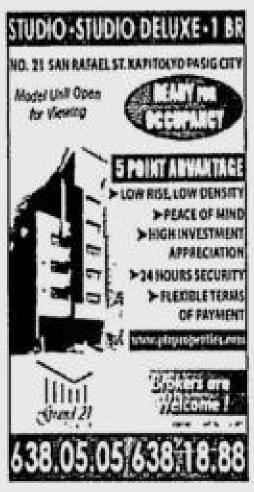
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LEGAL NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPS EDUARDO R. PEÑALOZA & CARMEN P. PEÑALOZA was extrajudicially settled By the heirs as Per Doc # 462 Page#94 Book# V Series of 2007 By Notary Public
Atty. RODERICK I. URREA
of San Pablo City
(PDI-Sept 16,23 &30'07)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORMA Y. BUSTAMANTE was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc No. 347; Page No. 71; Book No. 1; Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Frederick C. Apsay of San Jose Bulacan
(PDI - September 23, 30 & October 7, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the EEI Corp. Sales Invoice Nos. 10550, 10551, 10554, 10580, 10583, 10676, 10685, 10687, 10690, 10721, 10746 & 10747 issued to Marefe Jardinel last 2002 were declared lost.
(PDI-Sept. 16, 23 & 30, 2007)

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
- M/F w/ experience

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES
- M/F w/ or w/o experience
- New grads are welcome to apply

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- M/F experience in printing press

OFFICE STAFF
- M/F less than 25 yrs. old
- College grad

Fax resumé: 724-4808
E-mail: sbsihr@gmail.com
fairnewsmedia2@yahoo.com.ph
Unit 1606 11 Annapolis St., San Juan

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert 44835 MER-B Shares 10,300; - AEV Shares 20,000; 37061 MER-A Shares 10; under the Name of GONZALO D. ROQUE JR. & Cert 020754 APM-B Shares 20,000,000 under the Name of MATEMARA, INC. Are lost if no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Sept. 23, 30, & Oct. 7, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Meralco Stock Certificate issued to ROSANA L. DUE under Certificate No. A0144199, A0224853 and A0391505 with total no. of 195 shares. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that INDUSTRIAL REALTIES, INC. Stock Certificate#13-A issued in the name of MANUEL G. MONTECILLO dated March 28,1995 covering 48,000 shares has been reported lost by Mr. Manuel G. Montecillo. If no contest is received, the Corp. will issue a new stock cert.in his name as provided by law.(PDI-9/23,30,10/7,2007)

Notice is hereby given of the lost of San Miguel Corporation stock certificates issued to Edmund Yu Chua, Edmund Yu Chua ITF Edsel Anthony S Yu Chua, and Edmund Chua ITF Edric Andro S. Yu Chua under stock certificate nos. B01201009, B92023344, B89005616, B89002048, B88001804, B99181509, B93034398, B92023533, B89008199, B99181508, B93034397, B92023532, & B89008200 with total no. of 1,094 shares. Should no one contest received, new stock certificates will be issued.
(PDI Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

Notice of loss. Heritage Memorial Park Certificates Nos. 113968 and 113969 (w/ Lot Nos. 04L10367 and 04L10369) issued to ROLANDO P. ORENSE. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI- Sept. 23,30&Oct. 7, 2007)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Mama Mary, St. Therese and St. Anthony, Thank You!
- G. S. T.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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MAGNEGOSYO AT UMASENSO!
Sn Mguel Magnolia Purefoods Goldlokcs Ginebra Unilliver Knorsavona & Lots More Elma 0928-3629878 • 0906-3283256

Theme Resto in BF Pque w/ Goodwill & Core Clients Secret Recipes Seats 120 Asking P1.8M 09178809479

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Makati IV
VACANT Position
OSEC-DECSB-TCHR-1-42195

MEDTECH XRAY TECH M/F 8256486 8255641

SALES & OFFICE STAFF
OPTOMETRIST 6876160 Rose

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OFC STAFF 4 MNLA BRANCH
W/ SALARY,ALLOW,& BONUS
7298395 09104827015
09274866400/ CEL GOMEZ

Sales Agents for construction Industry M/F 21-30y/o college grad nr Cwealth QC 9313643

Urgent Foreman w/ Conts Exp Submit Resume 5F Prudentiallife Bldg. 843 Pasay Road Makati

Urgent Need H.S. TEACHERS English, Mathematics, Science and AP Tel(044) 6991064 / 09274350757 with or without experience

Urgent Structural Draftsman submit resume 5F Prudentialife Bldg. 843 Pasay Road Makati

WANTED THERAPIST CALL 910-5410

FEMALE

HOUSE MANAGER
For Forbes Park Resident
30-45 y/o Female
09178348790/7505346
Malen

MALE/FEMALE

ACCTNG. STAFF IF NEAR QC 8752690/09273401979

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

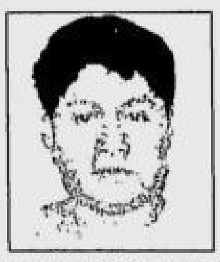
1997 Honda Civic VTI M/T / WAJ-591
2005 Nissan X-Trail 200 2.0 A/T / ZAS-870
2005 Mitsubishi Pajero 4X2 A/T / XRT-241
2002 Toyota Corolla Altis 1.6J M/T / XBU-216

For particulars, please call Philam Ins. Co., Inc. c/o Tristan Yoro & Arvin Calipjo at Tel. No. 815-30-00.
(PDI – September 22 & 23, 2007)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
EARN UP TO
₱3,000 / DAY!!!
- WORK FROM HOME WITHOUT INTERFERING YOUR CURRENT SCHEDULE
- PART/FULL TIME
- M/F, 21-55 YRS. OLD
- WITH WORK EXPERIENCE

TEXT FULLNAME, AGE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, LOCATION TO:
09184643503
FOR INTERVIEW / BRIEFING SCHEDULE

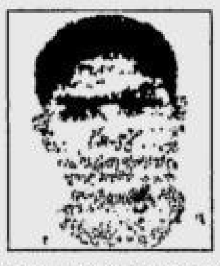
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that warrant of arrest of **CRISPIN S. DEL CARMEN,** whose picture appears above have been issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 154, Pasig City with Criminal Case No. 134826-PSG (I.S. No. PSG-06-11-12484) for qualified theft.

Any information that will lead to his arrest shall be rewarded. Please direct any information to contact tel. nos. *687-4922* or *6353290* and look for Atty. Roberto C. Guevarra.
(PDI–Sept. 23, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that warrant of arrest of **ISMAEL M. BONGAR,** whose picture appears above, have been issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 154, Pasig City with Criminal Case No. 134826-PSG (I.S. No. PSG-06-11-12484) for qualified theft.

Any information that will lead to his arrest shall be rewarded. Please direct any information to contact tel. nos. *687-4922* or *6353290* and look for Atty. Roberto C. Guevarra.
(PDI–Sept. 23, 2007)

PMAP CONFERENCE IN CEBU
People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) will have Generali Pilipinas as one of its Major Sponsors in its Annual Conference on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Shown during the MOA signing are (from left) Generali's senior asst. vice president, Chito Paras and senior executive vice president for Sales and Marketing, Augustus J. V. Ferreria with PMAP president Mark O. Go, and PMAP Ways and Means Committee chair Lina A. Aseneta. This year's theme "People Deliver: Linking People and Results" will feature top notch CEOs to share experiences about leadership, people practices and results.

Mortgage bonds seen to raise by tenfold liquidity for housing

THE NATIONAL HOME MORTgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) announced that it is set to float by June 2008 mortgage-backed securities (MBS) financial instruments capable of multiplying by tenfold the liquidity or funds available for the housing finance sector.

This is according to Joseph Peter S. Sison, NHMFC president, in a speech at the recent housing trade exhibits of the National Real Estate Association (NREA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

Sison said that the securitization program for real estate mortgages is one of the reform programs of Vice President Noli de Castro, concurrent HUDCC chair.

"By 2010, Chair De Castro plans to institutionalize a sustainable housing finance system less dependent on banks and pension funds for its funding requirements," Sison said.

The trade exhibits precedes the holding of the 12th NREA-HUDCC National Convention set on Sept. 27-28, at the Ayala Hall of Makati Sports Club, Leviste St., Makati City.

Sison also called on NREA and its members to participate in the shelter securitization program, either as investor-buyers of MBS, or provider-seller of realty assets estate in the form of mortgages, or contracts to sell.

The NREA-HUDCC convention is focused on the theme, A Better Outlook in Philippine Real Estate: "Building Local, Selling Global, Developing Green".

In line with this, NHMFC will undertake its securitization program, by selling MBS to investors even from international finance companies, to finance local real estate development and affordable home acquisition, Sison informed.

Responding to the challenge, NREA chairman Jose V. Manalad said that private housing partners are in full support of the Vice President's key housing initiatives.

Marketing guru Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA president, also vowed to help mobilize the realty sector to boost VP De Castro's shelter program.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

AUGUSTO "BABY" TORRALBA SANCHEZ

Of Plaridel and Malolos, Bulacan
who died on the 20th of September, 2007 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **Mila**, children **Mike & Pet, Emmaline** (†), **Augusto, Jr. & Vollet, Eric & Malu, Teresa, Jay, Alex, Millet & Larry, Patricia, Augusto III**, grandchildren **Michelle, Carla** (†), **Barbara & Victor, Joey, Augusto IV, Austin, Candy, Dimple, Quiel, Eric Augusto, Jr., Erika, Larry Boy, Minette, Lizzie**, great grandchildren **Patrice, Noelle, Melanie** and **Angelina** together with his other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12-G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 27th of September 2007, at the Manila Memorial Park in Plaridel, Bulacan after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the San Roque Chapel, Barangay Longos, Pulilan, Bulacan.

"Our eternal gratitude for nurturing us until the end. Now, God will nurture you forever. Well done Mama!"

In loving memory of our beloved

Dolores Buenaflor del Rosario

March 5, 1924 – September 24, 2006

on her first year anniversary of her peaceful homecoming to the Father's House

Remembrance Mass will be offered for her on September 24, 2007 at the Buenaflor-del Rosario Family Mausoleum in Dumangas, Iloilo Catholic Cemetery at 9:30am.

Other masses on the same day will be offered at the following:

Sacred Heart Church, *Manville, New Jersey* 11:00am
St. Augustine Church, *Dumangas, Iloilo* 6:00am
Immaculate Conception Church, *Tanza, Iloilo* 6:00am
Miraculous Medal Church, *Calumpang, Iloilo* 6:00am
Miraculous Medal Church, *Project 4, Quezon City* 6:00am

Family members request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Message of Thanks

From the Family of

JUANA DE LA PAZ GAPUD

who passed away on September 16, 2007
is now joined in Christ with her husband Melanio
and eldest son Jose.

We, her surviving children **Lourdes, Milagros-Ang, Victor, Mario** and **Benjamin** wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who condoled with us during our hour of bereavement.

Our beloved Daddy...

PRECIOSO "PAPA SONG" SANTOS DAVID SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 17, 2007.

His beloved wife **Wilfrida F. David**; his children **Marlyn F. David**; **Bernie** and **Nelia**; **Precioso Jr. "Sunny"** and **Karen** (†); **Sev** and **Gigi**; and **Dr. Joselito "Jojo"** and **Emily** and all his grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Chapel in San Fernando, Pampanga starting Monday, September 24, 2007. Interment will be 3 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

CAPT. ALBERT L. ABAD

PAF (RET.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on Sept. 20, 2007 at the age of 52.

His loving wife **Bhel Lopez**; children **Behen** (†), **Jao, Jake & April**; his brothers & sisters **Boy** (†), **Babee, Lito, Inday, Nonoy, Arnie & Andrew**, all in-laws & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Acacia Room, Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park after the 12 noon mass.

JULIA "LILY" LLAMAS NARCELLES

April 12, 1943 – August 19, 2007

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

For your expression of sympathy to our family, be it in words or deeds, in emails, cards, letters or flowers; your concern, presence and support, care, love and assistance are much appreciated because they reminded us that in difficult times, God extends his loving hands...

THE NARCELLES FAMILY

Let us commemorate the 40th day of her demise on Thursday, September 27, 2007 during the celebration of the Holy Masses in the Philippines and around the world.

She is our angel, our saint and our model who is forever treasured and loved. We thank God for having given us such a mother we can always be proud of. Let us continue to pray for the repose of her soul. May she rest in peace. ***Amen.***

Jesus Sunga Ocampo

who peacefully joined his Creator on the 21st of September 2007 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **Georgie**, daughter **Margot**, son-in-law **Joy** and grandchildren **Walten & Kathleen**, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. Interment will be on Friday, September 28, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park.

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

MANUEL S. SERRANA, JR.

*Peacefully joined our Lord and his father **MANUEL SR.** on September 17, 2007 at the age of 65.*

His mother **Salome**; his wife **Erlinda** and children **Erman & Maxelle, Manuel III & Maki, Anna Karina, Erwellyn, Raphael Andrew, Anna Kristina** and **Anna Karmela**; grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the following:

23 Sept. to 26 Sept. – Loyola Memorial Park Marikina Chapel 4
27 Sept. to 30 Sept. – St. Mary's Chapel, St. Mary Subd., Nangka, Marikina City

Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 3:00 PM Mass at the St. Mary's Chapel, St. Mary Subd., Nangka, Marikina City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Negros
City of Bayawan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
http://www.bayawancity.gov.ph
(036) 631-0020 local 202
(035) 531-0638 (telefax)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City of Bayawan, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC-I), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibity and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Item # in PR	Qty	Unit	Articles	Estimated Unit Cost	Source of Funds
1	20	unit/s	Pistol Cal. 45 Police Enhance, 8 rounds cap (Detailed Specification in Instruction to Bidders)	30,000.00	General Fund
2	5	unit/s	Pistol Cal. 45 ACP Police Enhance, Hi-Cap 14 Plus 1 (14+1) (Detailed Specification in Instruction to Bidders'	98,000.00	General Fund
3	1	unit/s	Pistol Cal. 45 Police Enhance (Detailed Specification in Instruction to Bidders)	45,000.00	General Fund
4	1	unit/s	MP5K 9 x 19 mm (9mm Parabellum) brand new (Detailed Specification in Instruction to Bidders)	395,000.00	General Fund
5	1	unit/s	M/T 4x4 Pick-up (Detailed Specification in Instruction to Bidders] *** Nothing follows ***	1,200,000.00	General Fund

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Bidders shall drop their technical and financial proposals in the bid box at the BAC Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids.

All particulars relative to eligibity process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government. The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 24, 2007 to October 16, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
Pre-bid Conference	October 02, 2007 @ 2:00 PM
Eligibility Check	Not later than October 15, 2007
Deadline/Opening of Bids	October 16, 2007 @ 10:00 AM

Approved:
(Sgd.) LANI T. PATAJO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2007)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913
TIN 000-716-369 V
Tel. No. (077) 784-71-26/784-00-82 Local 818
Fax No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to submit bids for the said project.

The project includes the furnishing of labor and materials for the construction of about 37 kilomteers of 69 KV line in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours starting October 8, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

The TWO-ENVELOPE SYSTEM shall be followed.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price.

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expenses or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the INEC.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM, REE
BAC – Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE
OIC – General Manager

(PDI – September 22 & 23, 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 920-22-40/42
Email: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of the **NICKEL MINING PROJECT** of the **CENTURY PEAK CORPORATION** to be located at the Brgy. Panamaon, Loreto, Dinagat Province

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **Nickel Mining Project** of **Century Peak Corporation** to attend a **Public Hearing** on Oct. 12, 2007, 9:00 AM at the Brgy. Panamaon Hall, Loreto, Dinagat Province.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mail with the **EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City** c/o Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul Officer-in-charge of the EIAM Division or with the **EMB Region XIII with Office address at 3rd Floor Gorme Bldg., Langihan Road, Butuan City**, or at the public hearing itself.

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB Central Office and/or Region XIII on or before Oct. 12, 2007.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through For. Mark Saclag or Engr. Marivic Yao at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 42.

(PDI–Sept. 23 & 26, 2007)

A Chocolaity-fun Sunday at Glorietta

ON SEP. 23, DON'T LET YOUR little ones miss this year's most exciting trip to the Magnolia Choco Land!

Magnolia Chocolait has concocted a whole day of fun-packed activities at the Glorietta Activity Center where great adventures abound to challenge the body and mind of young trekkers.

Inside the Magnolia Choco Land, one can basically find all the elements close to a child's heart-stories, coloring books, pictures, games and prizes-made even more special with the company of new friends.

First stop is the storytelling area called the Magnolia Chocolait Dreamland where kids can learn about the "chocolait-y" goodness of Magnolia Chocolait in an interactive set-up.

After tickling their imagination, the marshals will take the voyagers to three amazing challenge areas: the Magnolia Chocolait Maze, the Magnolia Chocolait Swamp and the Magnolia Chocolait Rockies. These challenges will lead the kids to the adventures of Choco Land that will inspire and help them to develop a strong mind and an active body.

Kids will then troop to the Magnolia Chocolait Photo Zone to have their souvenir pictures taken so they could share with everyone their escapades inside the Magnolia Chocolait Factory.

There's more. Promising artists can showcase their creativity inside the Coloring Area and win some more Magnolia Chocolait gift packs to make their trip extra memorable.

Taking the trip to the Magnolia Choco Land is easy. Kids whose schools were previously visited by the Chocolait Bus simply need to present their Golden Tickets to get inside.

Those who haven't participated in the Chocolait Bus School tour can also participate. Just purchase a Magnolia Chocolait back-to-school pack from the pre-selling area in the mall in exchange of the Golden Ticket.

Parents are also welcome to join and bond with their kids inside the Magnolia Choco Land.

Global-Link MP organizes manufacturing technology event

GLOBAL-LINK MP EVENTS INTERnational Inc (GMP), the country's leading trade exhibition and business conference organizer, brings back the 14th Manufacturing Technology World Series—the biggest and most impressive technology, machinery and automation event to be held in the country from Sep. 26 to 29 at the prestigious World Trade Center Metro Manila.

6-in-1 show

This mega event will bring together six power-packed events in one mega show, namely: Enviro-Tech Philippines (Total Environmental Management Technology), Metal Philippines (Metalworking, Hardware and Welding Equipment), Philtronics (Electronics and Semiconductor), Plastics & Packaging Philippines (plastics and packaging technology), Print & Label Philippines (Printing and Label Machinery) and WoodMach Philippines (Woodworking and Furniture-making Machinery).

"This year, Manufacturing Technology World Series grew substantially both in terms of size and number of machinery on display. There will be a total of over 700 exhibitors representing products and services from 19 countries and occupying over 15,000 sqm of indoor and outdoor exhibition space. We expect this event to be one of the biggest and most successful in the region as the overall turnout is totally great!" said Jing Lagandaon, chief operating officer of Global-Link MP.

The impressive outcome of the show may be attributed to the support provided by various local and international organizations and business networks, including the Association of the Electronics Industries in Singapore (AEIS), the International Enterprise of Singapore and various consulates, offices and representatives. The show has been completely sold out and has international country pavilions coming from China, Singapore, Korea and Taiwan.

Manufacturing Technology World Series is co-organized by the Packaging Institute of the Philippines (PIP), the Philippine Plastics Industry Association (PPIA), the Philippine Center for Print Excellence Inc (PCPE) and the Philippine Electronics & Semiconductor Suppliers Association (Pessa), whose contribution allowed the show to achieve record-breaking success.

P100M in sales

For the past 13 years, this event has become the most well attended industrial affair in the country. Each event generates over P100 million in reported onsite sales, which serves as a clear indication that the products and services being displayed is perfect for the Philippine market. For more information, call Global-Link MP at 750-8588, fax 750-8585, e-mail info@globallinkph.com, or log on to www.globallinkph.com. Visit its offices at Unit 1003, Antel 2000 Corporate Center, 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

"Visitors to the show can expect to see a wide range of machinery, products and services from all over the world. It is estimated that over 18,000 products, machines and services for the manufacturing industry will be showcased at the expo. Global-Link MP and its network of over 35 offices around the world is committed to bring the very best to the Philippines. We are committed to enhance the growth and global success of our local manufacturers and exporters in the years to come. Our vision and mission is clear-we will continue to serve as the link for business opportunities for our local businessmen." added Lagandaon.

Other supporters of the Manufacturing Technology World Series are the First Association of Self-Adhesive Label Industry of the Philippines (Fasalip), the Original Equipment Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Oemap), the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the Mechatronics & Robotics Society of the Philippines (MRSP), the Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines (Miap), the Philippine Welding Society (PWS) and the Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF).

"In 2008, we expect an even bigger expo as various international organizations have confirmed additional foreign pavilions to be set up at the show. This is definitely something to look forward to when Manufacturing Technology World happens from Sep. 24 to 27, 2008." said Lagandaon.

Nestlé Center bags 3 fire safety awards

THE NESTLÉ CENTER IN Rockwell, Makati reaped three awards at the 9th Fire Safety Compliance Awards Program held recently at the Makati City Hall. The awards attest to the quality of the fire safety features of the building as well as the fire safety measures and practices implemented by the company. The citations also recognized the continuing commitment of Nestlé Center to protect life and property in its premises through the practice of proactive safety initiatives.

The building won the Fire Safety Compliance Award for the sixth consecutive year for having fully complied with the requirements of the Fire Code of the Philippines and the National Building Code of the Philippines and their implementing rules and regulations in terms of completeness, installation, maintenance and periodic testing and upkeep of fire prevention and safety systems.

The Center also won the Building Fire Brigade Award for the second time since 2004. The award recognized the building's exemplary practice of organizing, training and equipping its fire brigade, thereby ensuring its effectiveness and readiness to perform its task in case of fire emergencies.

The last award won by Nestlé Center was the Corporate Fire Safety Award which was also won by the building in 2005. The award recognized the Center's safety organization and safety program, for sustaining its proactive safety initiatives.

More than 1,000 buildings in Makati participated in the awards program. Nestlé Center was among the 50 that were given awards by the screening committee after a stringent evaluation process. Nestlé Center was required to submit complete documentation and undergo an interview by the screening committee. Evaluation included physical inspection of the building.

The awards program was organized by the Makati Fire Safety Foundation Inc (Mafsafi) together with the City of Makati (including Fire Department and the Office of the Building Official), Rotary Club of Makati and Makati Commercial Estate Association, Inc (Macea).

ORMAL AW
CER

LCCM RECEIVES WORLD-CLASS CERTIFICATION
Proving its commitment to deliver quality service and academic excellence to its clientele, La Consolacion College Manila has recently been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System (QMS). The certificate was issued by Societe General Surveillance (SGS)-the world's leading inspection, verification and testing certification company based in Geneva, Switzerland. LCCM's ISO 9001:2000 certification only validates the institution's devotion to high-quality standards as well as its continuous drive for enhancement and efficiency of service. Continuously striving to be at par with the academic institutions abroad, LCCM devotes considerable effort in maintaining its drive for academic excellence as well as continuous improvement of its management processes. Shown at the formal awarding ceremony, from left, are Sr Ma. Luz Mijares OSA, Asoic Superior General and LCCM BOT chair and LCCM president Sr Imelda A. Mora OSA receiving the ISO 9001:2000 compliance certificate from SGS CEO Rosario Cajucom-Bradburry.

SECURITY BANK SEALS CBA WITH WORKFORCE
The management of Security Bank Corp (SBC) and the Security Bank Employees' Union (SBEU) have successfully concluded negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that will last up to 2011. Led by SBEU chair Billy Joe R. Leones and management negotiating panel chair Maximo N. Madridejos Jr in the presence of SBC executive vice president Jesus Roberto S. Reyes (seated 2nd, 4th and 3rd from the left, respectively), the two parties speedily concluded the negotiations of the CBA as a result of an amicable relationship between the management and workforce of Security Bank. With them in the signing ceremony held at the Brasserie 21 of Security Bank Centre were (seated from left) SBEU legal adviser Meynard O. Garcia, management legal counsel lawyer Carlos Jose F. Batino, (standing from left) union officers Francis Gilbert V. See, Jackjones C. Bartolata and Michelle C. Li-Wong and management negotiating panelists Estrellita V. Ong, Ma. Victoria B. Dimayuga and Peace E. Ibarra.

Review for realty broker's licensure exam

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INdustry has set another licensure examination for those aspiring to be licensed real estate brokers on Nov. 25. With the onset of another real estate boom as in the 1990s, it is expected that many would be positioning themselves ahead as real estate professionals. In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate announced the four schedules of its Comprehensive Real Estate Seminars (CRES) and review in Makati and Quezon City as follows:

The Saturday afternoon section will be held on Sep. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 10 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at Max's Restaurant near the exit of Glorietta 2, Makati City while the Monday afternoon section will be on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, Nov. 5 and 12, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m.; and the eight-session Tuesday evening section will be on Sep. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, from 6 to 10 p.m., also at the same venue in Makati City.

The Thursday afternoon section will be held at Max's Restaurant at Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City on Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 8 and 15, the same time slot of 1:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Engineer Enrico Cruz, 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraisers and brokers board examination respectively, and son lawyer Rex Enrico V. Cruz III, the same team that produced 11 topnotchers and the highest 86 passing percentage in the last May broker's licensure exam, are again the lecturers on the subjects officially prescribed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Urban also announced that updated copies of "Comprehensive Notes and Reviewer For Real Estate Broker's Examination" and "Mastering the Real Estate Broker's Exam" are now available for distribution to aspiring examinees. The two best-selling real estate books contain all the board exam topics with more than 200 past board questions and answers sorted according to board subject required by DTI. This reviewer will also be a handy reference for real estate developers, practitioners and property owners.

For other details, or advance registrations, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, 796-8019 or 0916-4269174 or 0921-6839431. E-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

ceo
corporate executive offices

CEO OPENS FIRST MANILA OFFICE
Corporate Executive Offices (CEO), the Australian-based serviced offices provider, will soon open its first Manila office. Conveniently located at the 12th floor of the Robinsons Summit Centre along Ayala Avenue, Makati City, the CEO office will feature state-of-the-art office technology and will be initially run by a select group of top-ranking CEO executives from Australia. CEO's fully furnished serviced offices range from one- to 20-person venues, and will feature such amenities as full reception, telephone and message handling services, voicemail, unified messaging, cleaning, conference room, as well as an in-house snack counter and cafeteria. CEO's offices provide an ideal option to traditional office leasing arrangements, allowing start-up or highly mobile companies quick and cost-effective solutions to their office space requirements. In line with its forthcoming grand launch in October, CEO recently signed up with its exclusive PR and advertising partner, ALV Consultus Advertising Inc. Shown, from left, are Mariska Folley, CEO operations manager; Alesya Folley, CEO business center manager; Jenny Folley, CEO managing director; Arnold Vegafria, president, ALV Consultus Advertising Inc, Jonas Marcelo, CEO general manager; and Jason McKimm, CEO marketing manager.

'Flavors of Spain 2007'

EXPERIENCE A wealth of colors, flavors and textures as Fuego Hotels gives you a taste of the world's best! Fuego Hotels and Properties, in cooperation with The Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (Icex) and the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy, brings the "Flavors of Spain 2007". This year's theme is "Passion for Food, Passion for Life", a month-long series of events featuring the best of food, wine and culture that Spain has to offer. For more information, call 750-1999, 750-1895, 750-1897, or e-mail guests@fuegohotels.com. Log on to www.fuegohotels.com.

ORIONELEC IS ACER'S NEWEST DISTRIBUTOR
Acer Philippines Inc recently confirmed the appointment of Orionelec Philippines Inc as 5th distributor in the country. Orionelec will manage channels for Acer commercial desktops, notebooks and LCDs. Established in 2000, Orionelec Philippines Inc, formerly known as Emway Univon Philippines Inc, initially engaged in the stationery business. It has since diversified into the distribution of computers and IT products with focus on small and medium business segments and local government units. Orionelec is under the Thakral Group of Companies, one of Singapore's largest homegrown conglomerates with operations spanning 35 countries and employing more than 10,000 people worldwide. The Thakral Group provides IT products, services and support in most emerging markets as well as in Europe and the United States. Acer is establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with reputable groups such as Orionelec to further expand its distribution network in the Philippines and reach a bigger base of users. Shown (from left) are Aila de Ocampo, general manager of Orionelec Philippines Inc; BS Kumar, chief executive officer, Orionelec Philippines Inc, and Manuel Wong, general manager of Acer Philippines.

Real estate exec breaks new ground

Kaiku Licuanan is now his own boss at 63

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT A TIME WHEN most people his age are content to just take it easy, play golf or travel around the world, 63-year-old Francisco H. Licuanan III is busy breaking new ground.

After retiring as president of Ayala Land Inc., the country's leading real estate development company, after 40 years of service; a year's stint as head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development and a two-year attempt at consulting, Licuanan is now trying his hand at being an entrepreneur.

Licuanan and former colleagues and investors have put up Geo Estate Development Corp., which is going up against his former company with its maiden project—The Beacon, a residential condominium project at the corner of Chino Roces and Ramon Arnaiz Avenues in Makati City.

"I'm excited again," says Licuanan, adding that it feels good to be at the front line again and in the thick of a development project.

Being a consultant to one of the country's biggest corporations has its perks, but Licuanan says he was not too happy about it because he is not used to being detached, to just be called on to give advice.

"You have to be detached because you cannot be sure if your advice is going to be taken. You cannot demand that they follow your advice," he explains.

For someone who has always been committed to seeing his plans through, it was a tough adjustment to make, and he's glad that with Geo Estate, he is again free to be passionately involved in projects.

"I'm so used to being on the line... to being emotionally committed to a plan," Licuanan says.

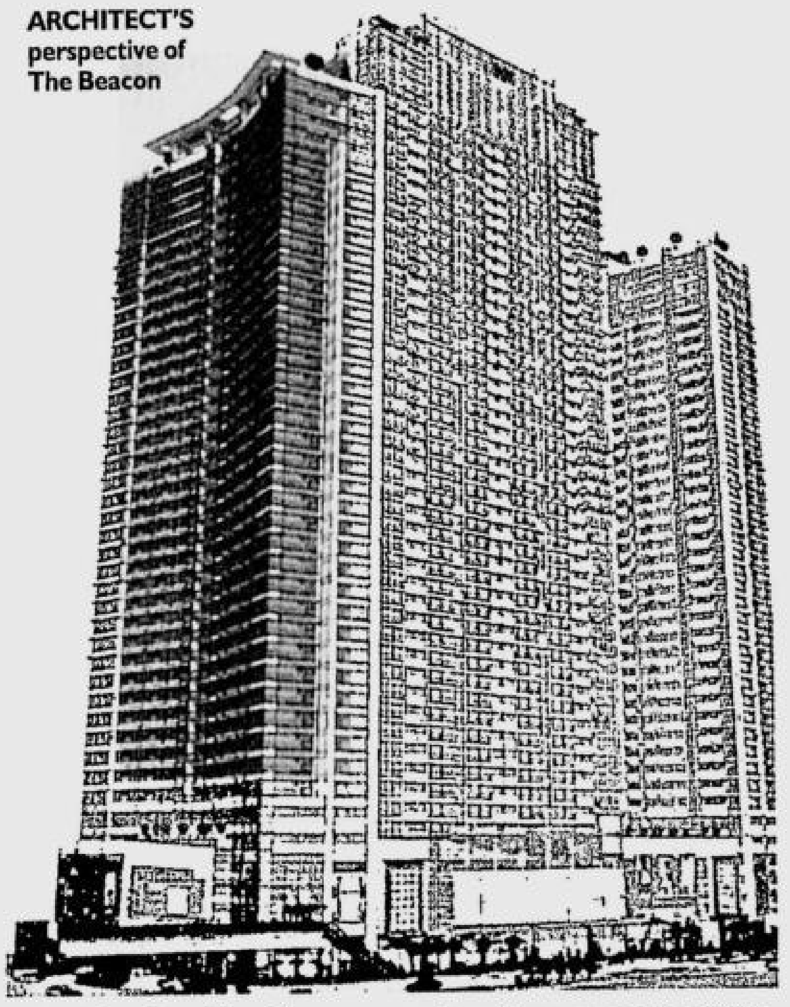
Such commitment helped Licuanan and the Ayala Land organization steer the company from a spin-off unit of Ayala Corp. in 1989 into the multibillion-peso company it is today.

The Atenean and Harvard graduate could have also opted to jump at the chance to again be a chief executive of big corporations here, but he says that after 40 years of working for somebody else, it was time to work for himself.

It is quite a change, Licuanan says.

On the negative side, he says he has to work with limited resources and his margin for error is more limited. Every project has to be a success.

ARCHITECT'S perspective of The Beacon



On the plus side, Licuanan says he is now much closer to the action.

"You don't have layers of bureaucracy between you and the marketplace. You can focus more on the actual business. You don't have to spend so much time on administration (budget sessions, personnel) and on outside audiences like the government or investors," he says.

"In essence, you are more of a "doer" and less of an administrator. I prefer this since I have always been a doer. I enjoy doing things. *Ayaw ko ng "pamanage manage lang,"* he adds.

Licuanan also says that as an entrepreneur, he can actually take more risks unlike before when he had to deal with other people's money.

"In a similar vein, you can decide to give a better product even if it means making less money because you don't have third parties telling you that you have to maximize profits. For example, in "The Beacon," we are giving a superior product at the same price or less than our competition. This is our decision because we wanted a product we can be proud of and we don't have to justify this to anyone else. In a large, publicly listed corporation, you may have to justify this to some fund manager or analyst who believes that a corporation exists only to make money for the stockholders," he says.

And since he is his own boss, he also has more time to pursue his other passions, like photography.

He just came back from Africa where he went on safari.

Some things remain the same, however, like business philosophies.

Licuanan says he is bringing to Geo Estate the same principles that have helped define Ayala Land—that of giving to the customer what he paid for and going the extra mile for him.

As Licuanan always says, "good enough is never good enough."

"Real estate is very easy to understand. What we do is push dirt and pour cement. It is the attention to detail that makes it difficult. A lot of art goes into it," he says.

He believes that with The Beacon, he hit the right balance between art and science.

The Beacon is the first of three towers to be put up in the area. It stands 44 stories tall with amenities that include a 450-square-meter pool, 300-meter jogging trail with exercise stations, 225-sq.m. two-level gym and 7,000 sq.m. of landscaped gardens, as well as services such as a lobby concierge, shuttle and chambermaids.

Buyers can choose among studio type, two-bedroom, three-bedroom, garden and loft units with prices ranging from P1.4 million to P9 million.

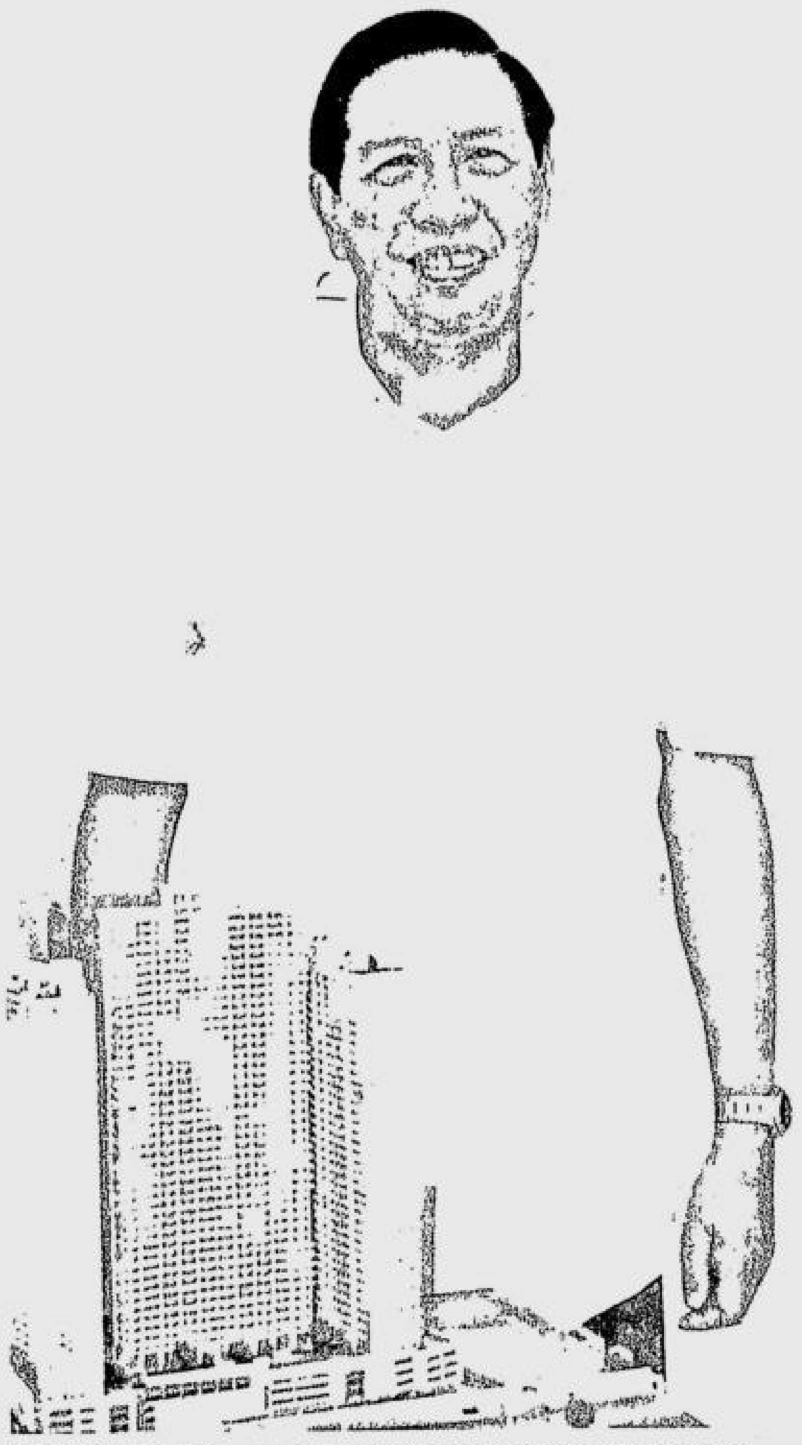
Construction will go full blast early next year, and the units of the first tower will be turned over in 2011.

Being the first project he can truly call his own, Licuanan is anxious but at the same time confident that he has himself a winner.

And it is a good time to take risks with the real estate sector on the upswing.

This is why Licuanan is putting his own money and those of partners and investors on The Beacon, which is just the first of many that he plans to put up through Geo Estate.

With Licuanan at the helm, it is almost a sure bet.



FRANCISCO H. Licuanan III enters the ranks of the entrepreneurs

ONE bedroom model unit (38 sq.m.)

Helping people make a new beginning

"Giving"
By Bill Clinton
Alfred A. Knoff, 2007

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

GIVING. IT IS A WORD THAT instantly reminds you of a virtue that is much spoken of but is less practiced. And yet it is also one word that doesn't fail to challenge you to make a choice. Are you giving, or are you taking? Are you a giver or a taker?

Of course, many are so busy climbing the corporate ladder that the question does not bother them at all. They are possessed by the acquisitive impulse, and they validate their existence or value by how much they own, how famous they are, or how much power they wield.

This philosophy—and practice—of giving are supposed to be the pre-occupation of businessmen-philanthropists, religious workers, members of civil society, fund raising specialists, academicians and the wonderful folks in public relations who have the additional expertise of fund raising.

Truth to tell, this author was involved in a survey commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) more than five years ago, the findings of which revealed something heartwarming about us Filipinos, even in the midst of so much poverty and of pervasive economic difficulties.

Our countrymen "have the heart" to give to worthy causes like education for the youth, the welfare of women and the health of individuals.

Cautious admiration

And yet the refreshing—if not startling—news is that a famous and controversial former American President like Bill Clinton will author a book, simply titled "Giving." The sub-title "How Each of Us Can Change the World" is, in journalistic parlance, "editorializing."

Curiosity (why would Clinton be writing of giving when he can have a memoir on geopolitical realities, for example?) gives way to cautious admiration when you read the introduction and there you are introduced to a gentle soul who learned about giving by "tithing" in a church, and who was actually giving of himself in various teen-driven projects.

Then you note that this is not your usual "giving" book that should serve as the resource guide of grant-seekers and fund-raisers, because—from giving money, time, things and skills (the traditional view)—author Clinton speaks of "gifts of reconciliation and new beginnings."

And so you jump to chapter six and change your impression about this American President whose conviction about bringing peace to conflict-ridden peoples sounds so real.

All at once, you get a ringside seat seeing scenes of a leader in the thick of the action in Ireland, the Middle East, Rwanda, etc., believing with the author that, in the midst of people "torn apart by group violence, you have the ability to see others as people—to respect them, communicate with them, live alongside them and, yes, forgive them."

You read about Nelson Mandela of South Africa who formed a government bringing into his Cabinet even his fiercest critics, who dishes out a message for our time in this country: "The only way to face the future was to let go of the past."

New beginnings

Clinton's accounts of "givers" involved in bringing in "new beginnings" expand and deepen our view of "giving." The author speaks about a woman who lost nine of her own children, but who recently gave birth to a days-old baby. She asked Clinton to give him a name, and Clinton said there must be a local language to denote "new beginning." There was such a word: "Dawn"—which became the baby's name.

Another form of giving is "organizing markets for the public good." Clinton speaks of Walmart, which greatly reduced its energy use, saving 324,000 tons of coal, 67 million gallons of oil, and saving 3,800 trees by changing its packaging.

Actually, Clinton also deals with the traditional avenues of giving—like giving money—with a difference: He gives us mind-boggling facts and figures.

For example, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have given more than a billion dollars for healthcare in Africa and India. Some people organized groups like "Make a Wish" (like the local version "Wish Ko Lang") where children with life-threatening medical conditions live their dreams before they go.

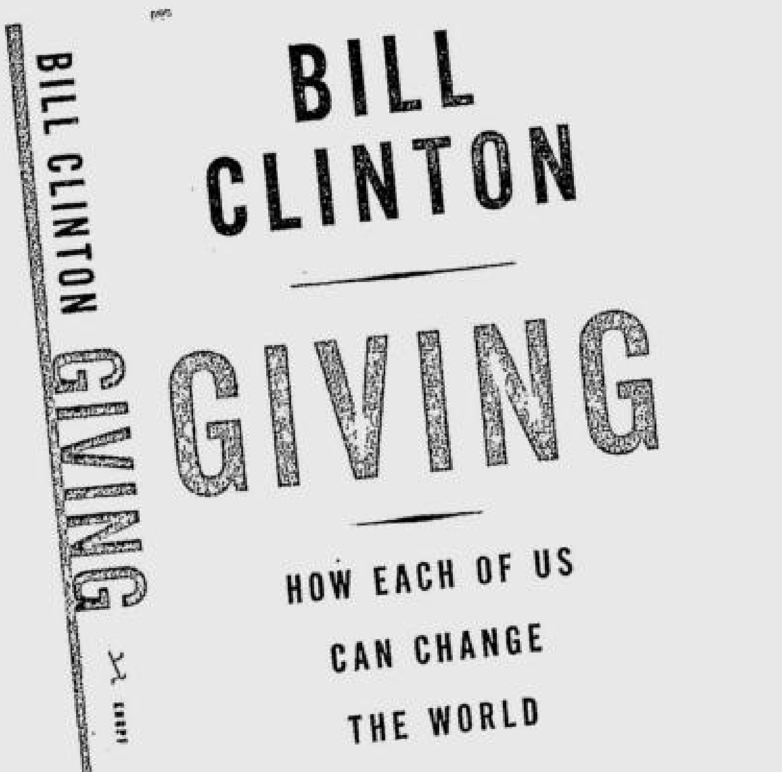
What matters

The book is meant to be read once—to get a perspective of the expanded dimensions of giving provided by a leader "who has been there done that" in a big way, and who has "put his money where his mouth is" by organizing the Clinton Development Initiative.

Then, the book must be read twice to allow all those strategies, names and details to sink in—because they comprise a vast menu of options for any executive's plan to enrich his CSR (corporate social responsibility) programs.

And then the book must be read a third time as you contemplate what really matters in this life, what you want to do for the rest of your existence, especially when you are quite blessed with fame and fortune—and yet feel that you can do something more with one "last full measure of devotion."

The book recounts Clinton's talk with Andre Agassi who put up a school called Agassi Prep, and author Clinton' quotes something that shouldn't fail to challenge anyone: "Winning a tennis tournament doesn't compare to the anticipation of what these kids will do with their lives." Speaking of giving, that's the most powerful "serve" Agassi delivered. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
er life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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- **Tessa in pursuit of** happiness /C4
- **atHOME with the very** cool Anton Ramos /F1

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Anyone can write. The difficulty is in finding and crystallizing that perfect moment that makes our hearts skip a beat and see beauty in gray reality

The importance of being useless

By Crystal Gail Shangkuan Koo
Contributor

"ALL ART IS QUITE USELESS," wrote Oscar Wilde with great flourish nearly 120 years ago as he ended the preface to "The Picture of Dorian Gray." It's something with which I heartily agree.

When I was studying literature in the University of the Philippines, people would ask what my course was, get an answer, give a polite pause, and then ask curiously what I intended to do with it. In Sydney, where I was studying Creative Writing, someone advised me to simultaneously get another, more practical degree so as not to be left out in the cold.

In Hong Kong, a friend of mine told her own friend about what I had been studying all my life, and her friend apparently recoiled in horror.

THE IMPORTANCE/ C2

And she just couldn't stop reading

By Grace Shangkuan Koo
Contributor

A mother talks about her early-reader daughter and the rewards of having discovered the magic of words

IT WAS HER EUREKA MOMENT—not unlike Helen Keller when she finally understood that there was a word for water.

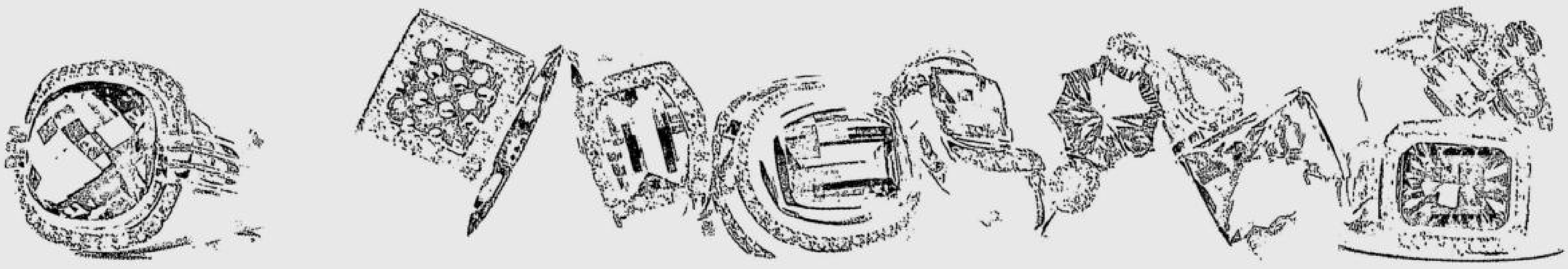
Crystal, our daughter, must have been about two years and nine months old when she vocalized the words with understanding and discovered she could read. She was actually reading! She laughed gleefully, pattering around the living room holding her newfound love—a Ladybird book of "Sleeping Beauty."

Not exactly her kind of story, but the magnificence and magic of words suddenly dawned on her. And as if visited by the fairy godmother, she went out of her character and read a page aloud to her aunt, who had happened to drop by in the midst of this serendipitous encounter.

Words and worlds

This fascination for words followed Crystal everywhere. I remember we were at the pediatrician's clinic for a monthly checkup. Crystal reached for the medicine box on the table, took out the instruction sheet and decoded the contraindications! On our way home she couldn't stop reading street signs aloud.

AND SHE/ C2



style meets substance

Acme Jewelry celebrates a milestone with the opening of its fourth branch at the Ayala Trinoma Mall. Acme Jewelry boutiques cater to a diverse clientele, introducing innovative design options that allow customers to express their individuality. Clients choose from a generous selection of fine diamonds, unusual colored stones, and genuine South Sea Pearls set in 18 karat white and yellow gold.

Acme jewelry collections stay true to the classics while keeping abreast with international jewelry trends. According to head designer Maribel de Dios, "Fashion is the source of inspiration behind our jewelry. This year, romantic swirls, cascading gems, soft colors, and whimsical details are very much in demand."

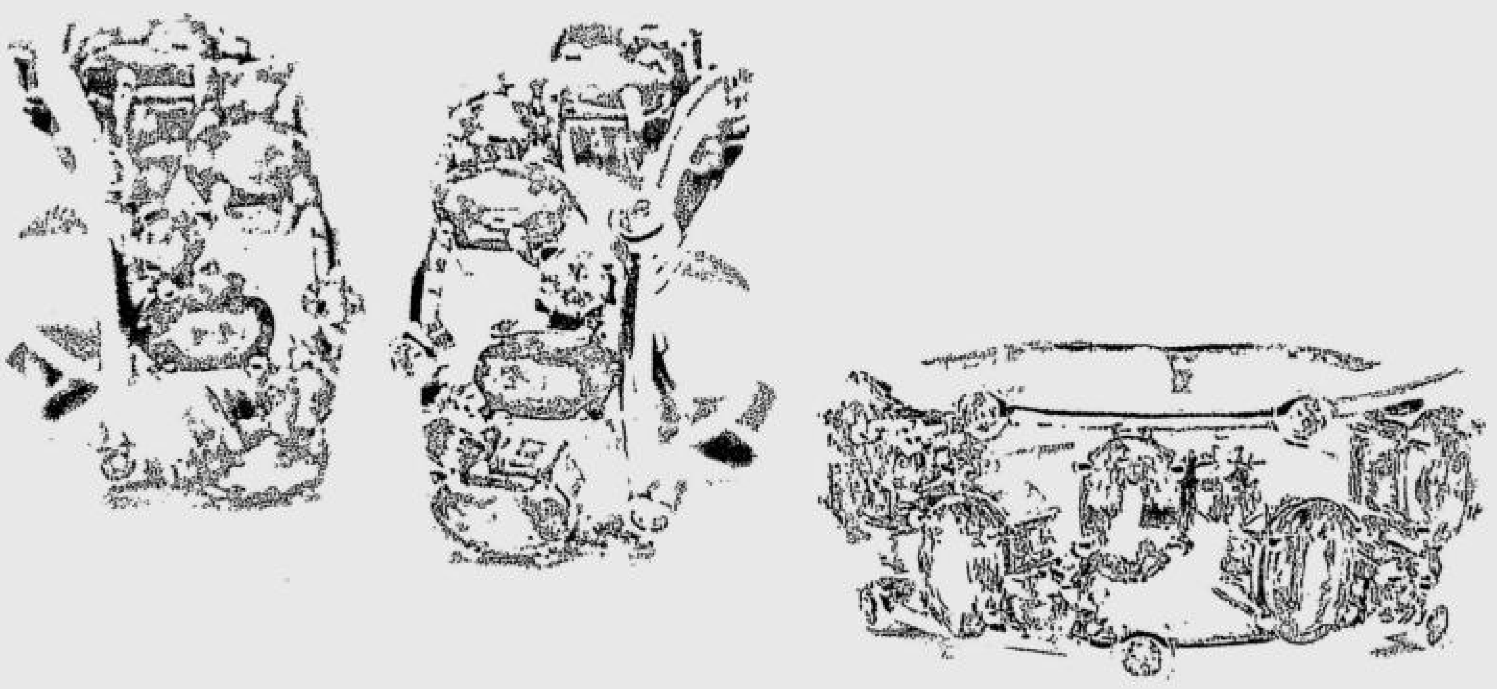
Apart from the specialty collections, Acme also offers custom designed pieces.

For added convenience, clients can take advantage of Acme's flexible layaway plans.

Acme Trinoma is the latest step in the expansion of Acme Jewelry. The company is opening more branches in the outlying areas of Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

Acme Jewelry boutiques are located at Level 1 of the Ayala Trinoma Mall, Ground Level of Glorietta 3, Upper Ground Level of Alabang Town Center, and at the Entertainment Mall of SM Mall of Asia. Inquiries may be directed to the Acme Head Office, 813-4042.

Above: A series of 18k white gold rings with round brilliant-cut diamonds and coloured gemstones such as a blue topaz, pink sapphires, citrine, london blue, peridot, amethyst, and coloured sapphires. Left: A pair of slim chandelier earrings in white gold with citrine briolette and beads accented with small diamonds, and dangling earrings with yellow oro verde stones and diamonds. Below: A matching set of ring & earrings with multi-hued oval sapphires and white diamonds.



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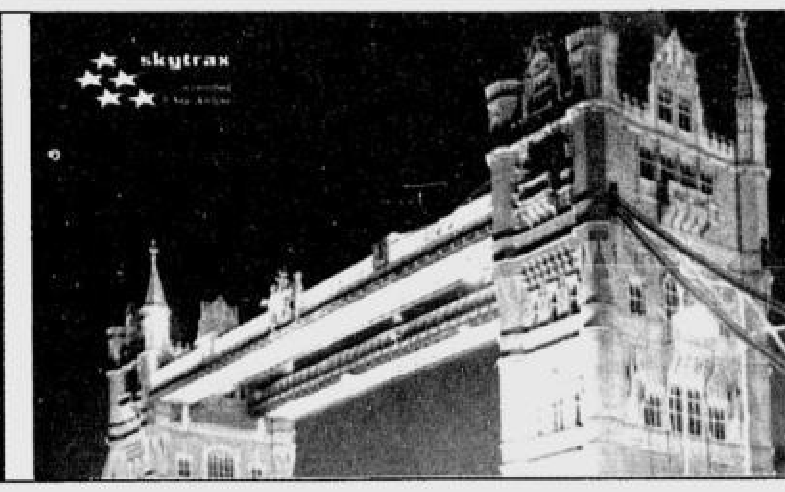


QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

Let's do the math on RP's poor math education

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

TEENAGER JONATHAN ALDRIC Chua garnered honorable mention at the 48th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Hanoi, Vietnam last July. The IMO is the most prestigious math fest in the world, with more than 500 contestants from nearly a hundred nations competing this year. Chua represented the Philippines, together with Tobit James Narciso, Darren Mendell Sy, Jeffrey Kenneth Go, Stephanie Anne Oliveros, and Carlo Francisco Adajar. They were coached by team leaders Ian Garces and Timothy Teng from the Ateneo de Manila University Math Department.

In 1959, the first IMO took place in Romania, with participants from the Eastern bloc. Since then, the IMO has expanded to five continents, with contestants not older than 20 years old.

In 1984, Filipino students performed well in the Australian Math Competition, so the Philippines was invited to compete in the IMO. Under the tutelage of head coach Jose Marasigan, four high school students traveled to Canberra in 1988, and Ateneo High School senior Victor Luchangco bagged the honorable mention, missing the bronze medal by just one point.

In the IMO, creativity, rigor, and perseverance are required. Speed is not so much emphasized as clarity of solution. On each of two days, contestants have to solve three problems in four and a half hours. Afterwards, leaders and their deputies coordinate with each other to discuss whether evaluations have been done well.

Intensive training

JONATHAN Aldric Chua receives honorable mention in the premier math fest in the world.

"My parents were my first teachers in life and in math," Chua said. "My mom opened my eyes to the beauty of numbers. Then my teachers in Saint Jude Catholic School, the trainors from the Mathematics Trainers' Guild and the professors from Ateneo and the University of the Philippines inspired me. Aside from textbooks, I read other math books either for recreation or for supplementary knowledge."

Garces and Teng thank several sectors for helping in the selection and training, such as Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Math Society of the Philippines, Metrobank Foundation, and Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. Intensive training sessions were held in Antipolo, Ateneo and UP, and for a couple of days last May, a former coach of the Canadian mathematics team lectured the team.

The team faced many problems. "The students did not have enough math background," said Garces. "They encountered some basic concepts only during training. True, they knew some theory, but they lacked deep understanding, just like swimmers who knew strokes theoretically, but come swim time, would sink."

"The Philippine ambassador in Vietnam lamented the education system in our country," Teng said. "Only three countries have basic education of less than 12 years, and we are one of them. If we are to make any significant progress, changes must be done, particularly in math."

"When Romania learned that its best students were not able to solve more than half of the problems during the 1959 IMO, its education ministry changed the curriculum of the science high schools towards deep thinking," Garces said. "Sad to say, this is not happening here. Our science high schools want college math, such as calculus, but the students cannot even prove basic math concepts. They focus on computations rather than critical thinking. Leave college math to college, and concentrate on high school math to deepen understanding of the basics.

"The best trainers for the IMO should be high school teachers. They teach the students five days a week. Though difficult, it is not impossible to learn problem solving. I hope that the deputy leader in the future would come from a high school."

Big event

Chua said he was excited during the IMO, especially when he solved perfectly this problem: In triangle ABC, the bisector of angle BCA intersects the circumcircle again at R, the perpendicular bisector of BC at P, and the perpendicular bisector of AC at Q. The midpoint of BC is K and the midpoint of AC is L. Prove that the triangles RPK and RQL have the same area.

OUR TEAM takes a break at the Philippine embassy in Hanoi. (Left column, front to back) Jeffrey Go, Tobit Narciso, Jonathan Chua, Darren Sy; (right column, front to back) Carlo Adajar, deputy Timothy Teng, leader Ian Garces, Stephanie Oliveros

"The best problem solvers are all here," said Garces. "I met my idol, the Polish coach. Imagine the Olympics, where basketball players from other countries play against their NBA idols! But with the help of new friends, especially the Singaporeans, I was able to play the game with the others."

"The IMO taught me fortitude and perseverance," Chua said. "No matter how difficult the problem is, we cannot give up without trying our best. The IMO also aims to foster friendship among contestants. We gained a lot of friends during our stay, from countries such as Albania, Taiwan, Montenegro, and New Zealand."

The future

Chua did well in the IMO, but the Philippine team placed 84th out of 93 countries. How can we do better?

Future contestants, Garces advised, should not wait for teachers to give problems. "The Internet is a good source of review materials. Hard work will do the rest. Contestants must be well rounded, good in number theory, combinatorics, geometry and algebra. Mastering only one area is not enough."

But Teng said, "It's all about balance. Contestants should be disciplined during training, not only because they are representing our country, but also because opportunities like the IMO are rare. Many students would love to be in their position. But at the same time, contestants should enjoy the moment. It's important to create an environment that will allow them to be comfortable with each other. Contestants should not think of the IMO as a competition among themselves; but rather they should push each other to become better."

Chua agreed. "Never be afraid of difficult questions. Take the contest seriously, but enjoy the process. After all, math is fun."

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

The importance of being useless

From page C1

Even Plato had poets exiled from his ideal Republic because they were liars and a colossal waste of breathing space.

In defense, Sir Philip Sydney, in 16th-century, schoolboy *pilosopo* style, argued that poets never said they were telling the truth in the first place, and Matthew Arnold proclaimed that culture is the sign of true civilization.

I happen to think that writing—and all art for that matter—is a soapbox, with which we can get a glimpse of a life other than our own once in a while.

Sometimes I think we take for granted how large the world really is. We tend to think of ourselves as the protagonists of the story of the world. The world is all about us, and without us the world just cannot exist.

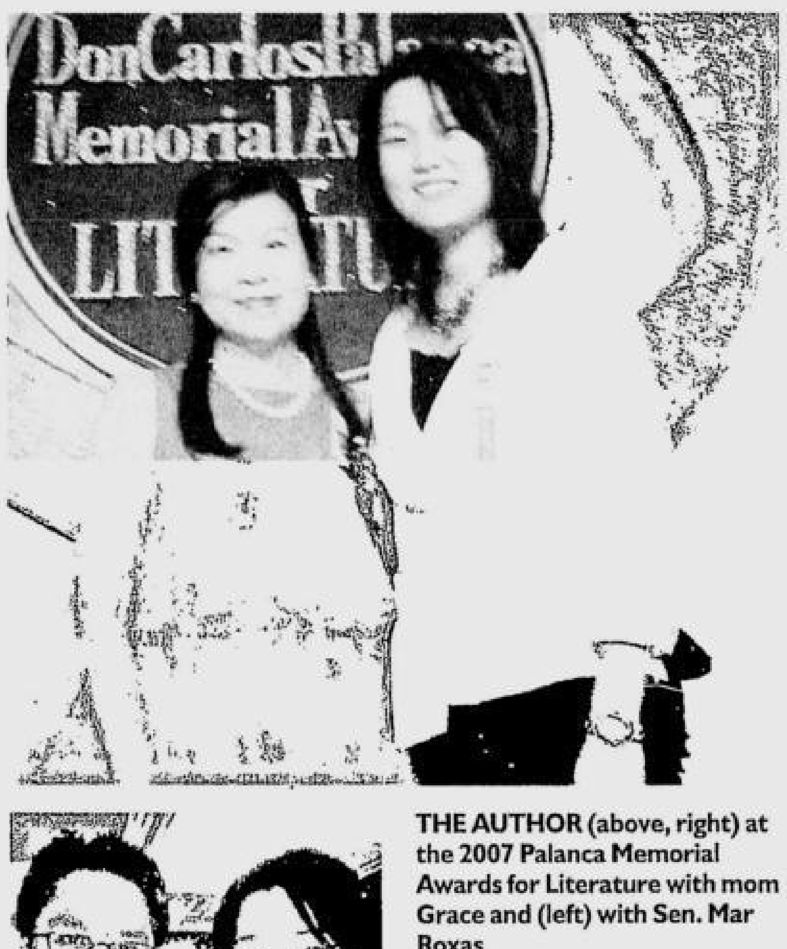
Try imagining the world without you and you will find the same unwillingness to imagine that the unperturbed world will keep on turning its merry way after you die. The rigors of surviving simply force us to forget how many other protagonists there are in this world.

Different histories

The world's population is currently 6.6 billion. That's 6.6 billion different histories altogether, each one with its own context, language, plot, twist and resolution. This means that when you're in a crowded, silent elevator, each person who is staring at the blinking numbers above you has his or her own drama unfolding at that very moment. It just so happened that this tiny part of his or her story has involved stepping into an elevator, with you as an extra.

Each person has a story because the world is cruel and merciful to us in many different ways, and if you dig deep enough, you'll find that none of the stories are ever boring, even if you've only made up the story just from the way the person looked. Even the mere existence of a person already tells the story of two other people.

Now we all know that the world is bigger than us, but like infinity, the idea of it is too surreal for our minds to fully grasp. What the people who write these stories do is transform that inert knowledge into felt awareness. The world is vast, chaotic and painfully beautiful in its ugliness and splendor, and writers are people who try to find order in that chaos to produce something our minds can finally recognize.



THE AUTHOR (above, right) at the 2007 Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature with mom Grace and (left) with Sen. Mar Roxas

And this is by no means an easy process. It's a challenge of choosing details, filling gaps, melding fact and fiction, getting what is in one's mind "out there" accurately, setting boundaries, knowing when to stop.

Revealing the spectator

In the end, art does not so much reflect reality as it reveals the spectator. It shows us as either readers or writers—how very little we truly know. The final product is a kind of beauty borne in the rush of experience, in the realization of something new, in the appreciation of flawed humanity.

And what use is all this beauty? What use does beauty have in the first place?

"Beauty is its own excuse for being," said Emerson to a flower 170 years ago, telling us in very elevated language that it's quite useless. The unanswerable question here is not so much why people write, but our own appetite for something greater than all of us.

The truth about writing is that anyone can do it. The difficulty is in finding and crystallizing that perfect moment that makes our hearts skip a beat and see, in the grayness of our mundane reality, a fleeting red of beauty.

"We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it," wrote Wilde. "The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely."

E-mail the author at crystal@koo.org.

(Editor's Note: The author won third prize for her short story "Benito Salazar's Last Creation" in the 2007 Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature—her first entry.)

And she just couldn't

From page C1

I was a doctorate student then, and she wanted to read my research journals.

As a primary grade student, she'd come down the stairs at 6:30 a.m. to take her breakfast while holding a book. Gulping down the cereal with the spoon on her right hand, her left hand would turn the pages quite adeptly.

In our travels I found her, a toddler, sitting primly on a quiet corner at the airport reading a book that she had prepared for the long waits. Every trip thereafter, she would agonize over which among her books she should keep herself from reading so she could reserve it for long flights.

While she enjoyed physical activities during travels, Crystal did not mind doing the rounds of cultural visits. She busied herself reading texts of historical backgrounds and explanations of exhibits and experiments in art and science museums.

Certainly a bit precocious for a 5-year-old but she was a shy little girl, absorbed in a world of words and fantasy. I learned that this childhood introversion is a characteristic of serious readers. She was all ears for stories—real or fiction. She listened intently to tour guides narrating legends of a country's origins. The real stories in "saga proportion" that her maternal aunts narrated also made for a rich store of resources.

Rhyming and writing

When I first discovered that she was creating non-sense and sensible rhymes while lying on her bed, I placed a tape recorder near her bed. I picked up pieces of scribbled verses that she wrote on the back of used pad papers when she was in grade school. She wouldn't hear of showing any of her "writings" to others, always saying they were nothing. But I noticed the rhymes and meters, parallelisms and proper syntax.

When she was in third grade, she was reading C.S. Lewis. At that age she already knew she wanted to be a writer. In sixth grade, she took out her Dad's yellowing copies of Tolkien's books and could not stop reading, dissecting and discussing the author with his Dad until she exhausted her thoughts on Tolkien for her eventual UP thesis, which earned her a perfect grade of 1.0.

In her late elementary and high school years she would keep spiral notebooks of her hand-written stories. She brought one of those to school to put in more entries during recess time, and before long her friends discovered the notebook and circulated it among the students—free reading for all. Her classmates actually "demanded" a new "chapter" each day. She was earnest to live up to that expectation.

Unusual choices

Her favorite gifts were heavy dictionaries and thesauruses, books on the origins of words and languages, and anthologies of all genres of great writings—unusual choices for a kid, but she was actually reading them from page to page! She taught me the word "atavism" when I said she was so unlike me, in terms of fondness for clothes, but so like her grandmother.

Visits to bookstores were the best treats of all. First, it was the young reader's section of National Book Store, then Barnes & Noble in the US (where we had to make a stop in every city), and further on, Amazon.com for the wish list.

Then came the first Power-Books on Pasay Road in Makati, then Page One at Rockwell (later changed to Fully Booked). There was also Kinokunoya on Orchard Road in Singapore, and beside City Hall in Sydney; Eslite in Taiwan, and Page One in Times Square, Hong Kong, which sometimes got three visits a year from us.

The whole family knows the nooks and corners of these places.

Crystal always chose her books well. She would start with a big bunch of books. My only rule was: three classics and three modern titles for each visit. From her grab of some 20 books, she'd painfully eliminate those of lesser value, which could wait, be borrowed in school or would not be read again! Even at a young age, she could discern degrees of literary excellence. Her book collection in her room, now spilling to the family room, makes for a library of excellent selections.

Winner twice over

Crystal went on to major in Anglo-American Literature at UP, graduating magna cum laude in 2005. After a year in Beijing to complete a Mandarin certificate program, she went to University of New South Wales in Sydney for her MA in Creative Writing and graduated July this year (with distinction). Currently, at 22, she teaches high school English in an international school in Hong Kong.

Her greatest joy these past two weeks have been to be named winner in two major literary competitions: first prize for her poem "Corridor" in the University of New South Wales' literary journal Unsweetened, and third prize in the Palanca Awards for her short story "Benito Salazar's Last Creation"—her first attempt in this prestigious awarding body.

She said the reason for this brave attempt was that, since winning a Palanca would be something so unexpected, if she didn't hear anything about her entry, she wouldn't feel disappointed. The day after the awards night, on our way to the airport, she reflected with a smile: "I thought a Palanca would be something I'd get when I am old and gray..."

E-mail author at grace@koo.org

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Dengue and rainy-day diseases

Prevention is still the best solution

TOGETHER WITH THE RAINS COME dreaded childhood diseases such as pneumonia and dengue—illnesses that strike not only children but adults as well.

Our good friend, Cris Paraso, city editor of Businessworld, is still at the Medical City (MC) as of this writing, due to a bad bout with dengue. Unfortunately, it was not only Cris, but his three daughters as well who got sick; two of them landed in the ICU for a few days, due to the same illness. Only his wife, Ruth, was spared from dengue but you can begin to imagine her stress levels keeping watch over three daughters and a husband. It's a good thing that our home church, Greenhills Christian Fellowship, threw in their full moral and spiritual support and thankfully, all of them are on the way to recovery.

Yesterday I was at our pediatrician's clinic and noted that there were a higher number of patients waiting in line. Dr. Joseph Regalado, who has been taking care of my children for the last 10 years, confirmed that there was an increase in the number of dengue, upper respiratory ailments and pneumonia patients over the last month or so. This was also confirmed to me by Dr. Cynthia Juico who chairs the school health program of the Philippine Pediatrics Society and the Department of Pediatrics over at Manila Doctors. She also told me that when she was in Bacolod last week, she noted that there were a high number of dengue cases being reported.

Pneumonia is a lung infection that can be caused by different types of germs, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Although different types of pneumonia tend to affect children in different age groups, pneumonia is most commonly caused by viruses. When this happens, symptoms of pneumonia begin after two or three days of a cold or sore throat.

The incubation period for pneumonia varies, depending on the type of virus or bacteria causing the infection. Some common incubation periods are: respiratory syncytial virus, 4 to 6 days; influenza, 18 to 72 hours.

With treatment, most types of bacterial pneumonia can be cured within 1 to 2 weeks. Viral pneumonia may last longer. Mycoplasmal pneumonia may take 4 to 6 weeks to resolve completely.

The viruses and bacteria that cause pneumonia are contagious and are usually found in fluid from the mouth or nose of an infected person. Illness can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes on a person, by sharing drinking glasses and eating utensils, and when a person touches the used tissues or handkerchiefs of an infected person.

Dr. Juico suggests the following preventive measures to avoid pneumonia during the rainy season:

"Avoid crowded places such as malls. Infants and young children are especially prone to contracting airborne diseases. As much as possible avoid bringing your children to crowded areas unless necessary.

"Practice hand-washing as frequently as possible to avoid hand to mouth transmission of germs. Carry a hand sanitizer in your bag.

"Remind all family members about the practice of covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing.

"Refrain from eating junk food and juices as these can irritate the bacteria present in the throat.

"Drink plenty of water, at least 8-10 glasses a day and take adequate amounts of vitamin C. Get enough sleep and rest to keep your immune system up. Take your vitamins daily."

No joking matter

Dengue fever on the other hand is a flu-like illness that is spread by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito.

Dengue is no joking matter, and every year, at around this time all the way until January of February, parents need to be very conscious of this disease and take precautions to prevent the mosquito from visiting their homes.

School administrators need to be aware of the number of dengue cases that hit their school's population. Schools with construction sites on-campus should be more vigilant about hygiene measures so that their students are adequately protected.

I came across a highly informative brochure on Dengue, produced by their Center for Patient Partnership; it describes the onset of Dengue fever as starting suddenly with a high fever, rash, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains.

Nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite are common symptoms. A rash usually appears three to four days after the start of the fever. Anyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito can get dengue fever.

Risk factors of dengue hemorrhagic fever include a person's age and immune status, as well as the strain of the virus.

Persons previously infected with one or more types of the virus are at greater risk for developing severe dengue hemorrhagic fever if infected again.

There are no vaccines as of yet and the key preventive measure is to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Remember that the Aedes mosquito lives and breeds in clean, stagnant water. Observe the following preventive measures:

- Regularly inspect your surroundings and discard items that can collect rain or run-off water - old tires, plant pots, roof gutters, plants with very huge leaves, drums that contain water should be covered at all times. Regularly change water in outdoor bird baths and pet and animal containers.
- Use mosquito repellants. OFF mosquito repellant now has several variants, one to suit every need. Johnson and Johnson also have a product that is safe for infant skin. I also discovered an all-natural repellant available at GIGA over at Tiendesitas that protects just as well. Spray or rub the repellant on your skin and clothes.
- Burn citronella or eucalyptus oil in an aromatherapy burner to ward of these pesky mosquitoes and other pests.
- While outdoors, during times that mosquitoes bite—from 5 to 8 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m.—wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- If you experience any of the dengue symptoms, report these to your doctor right away.

Be extra vigilant during the wet reason. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Email the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Good read for first-time parents

BABY MAGAZINE'S September issue focuses on first-time parenting. Preparing for your first baby becomes easier with checklists on must-brings, articles on signs of labor and anecdotes from husbands and dads about their fateful trip to the hospital, with tips for first-timers on how to make the trip go more smoothly.

There's also a feature on understanding in-laws and how to make it a win-win situation when your spouse's parents seem to be taking over your life.

Other topics covered in this latest issue of Baby are fun mom-baby bonding activities, dealing with a toddler during the terrible two's, natural healing methods for kids' diarrhea and vomiting, insights on keeping a child secure when one of the parents is away, and tips on making and following a family budget.

Feature stories include the fascinating waterbirth experience of Velvet Roxas, the first successful waterbirthing patient at Asian Hospital and Medical Center and the first recorded hospital waterbirth case in the country.

In the pregnancy pages, discover solutions to a sagging self-image during pregnancy and ways to encourage greater involvement from your husband during those months before delivery.

Baby magazine is available nationwide at National Bookstore, SM Department Store baby section, Baby & Co., Babyland, Power Books, Bufini and selected Mag:net plus outlets. Call 7283655/56.

Express delivery for students

DHL, THE WORLD'S LEADING express and logistics company, has launched DHL Student Express, a new express delivery service designed exclusively for students who plan to study overseas.

DHL Student Express is a fast and reliable retail express service that facilitates the transport of school application forms, transcripts of records and other important school documents overseas. Personal items such as books and clothing may also be sent to school dormitories through Student Express.

DHL Student Express will assist the large number of Filipino students who aspire to continue their studies abroad. Over 1.6 million students from across the Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, apply to educational institutions overseas.

Some of the popular destinations include the USA, United Kingdom, Australia, France, Canada, Japan, Germany, Spain, New Zealand, Singapore, India, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Switzerland.

Students who use DHL Student Express will enjoy a 15-percent discount with every transaction. Student Express is available in document and package categories. Student Express documents may either weigh in at 0.5-2.5 kg, while the Student Express Package ranges 2.5-5 kg.

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CHING Montinola, Mercy Tuason, Rupert Jacinto, Tessie Luz and National Artist Arturo Luz

RIBBON-CUTTING. Andy Bautista, Sandie Poblador, Eimee Cragun, Ambassador Ryu Yamazaki, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Jacinto, Marivic Vazquez, David Lim and Tina Jacinto

CONSUL Agnes Huibonhoa, Heloise Romualdez and Tina Jacinto

Passion and the search for happiness

> My passion is chocolate, but I can't indulge in it nowadays since it's reportedly bad for the voice, and I must keep whatever little voice I have for my, ahem, singing stint on TV

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ALEXI Alunan and Mariel Santos

TOURISM Undersecretary Cynthia Carrion

PAT CARLOS and Jaime Bautista

ADRIANO Cartualiares with statuesque beauty Divine Lee

NEGROS Trade Fair girls Reena Peña, Ina Gaston and Mary Ann Colmenares

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS is a lifelong search. The journey is made worthwhile by memorable experiences and friendships made along the way. Along the way, those who find enlightenment often agree that the challenge is not about acquiring the most assets but about finding passion in everyday life.

And it is in what we are passionate about that each one of us differs. Take world-class photographer **Rupert Jacinto**, whose new passion is mixed-media photography. At his well-attended cocktail reception at the St. Francis Shangri-La Place, the "Nieuw Art" exhibit presented Jacinto's mural artworks in photography, computer graphics on canvas and acrylic painting. The exhibit also featured the dazzling abstract installations of **Jaime Ponce de Leon.**

The guest of honor, Ambassador **Ryu Yamazaki** of Japan, was all praises in his glowing remarks and invited Rupert to exhibit in Japan. This lovable ambassador is headed back home as his term is over but he has promised to keep close ties with his Filipino friends.

Hours after the ribbon-cutting ceremonies with the other guests of honor like **Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay** and Shangri-La chair **Andy Bautista**, five Jacinto artworks were raffled off to very lucky winners.

The art-loving guests enjoyed wine provided by **Tita Trillo** of Titania and a buffet spread by Annie Guerrero of C2 Classic Cuisine. Major sponsors were St. Francis Shangri-La Place, **Eimee Cragun** and **Divine Lee.** The event was presented in cooperation with Remy Martin and Paradise Mango Rum.

HSBC card

To the unenlightened like me, happiness equals shopping, and there is nothing like the HSBC Mabuhay Visa to assist in this pursuit. HSBC recently launched the new FastFlights feature of their credit card to further sweeten the package (call 85-800 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph).

According to HSBC's SVP for marketing and product development, **Suresh Nanoo**, cardholders can now buy extra miles with their HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa, which helps them earn even more miles. And from now until Nov. 30, cardholders get two miles for the price of one. It may not be the path to enlightenment, but sure is tempting!

At the HSBC Card's fun-filled launch at the Rizal Ballroom of Shangri-La Makati, famous tour guide and event host **Carlos Celdran** urged guests to earn miles by taking the Promdi Challenges and everyone happily rose to the occasion.

Tourism Undersecretary **Cynthia Carreon** paddled a canoe in the Cagayan de Oro setting while determined designer **Rajo Laurel** biked back and forth on the bike trail in the Camarines Sur area. His energy allowed him to earn the most miles and win a free ticket to the local destination of his choice.

Awarding the winners were HSBC's Nanoo and deputy CEO **Martin Cook**, as well as Philippine Airlines president **Jimmy Bautista** and VP for marketing **Felix Cruz.** The foursome raffled off enough raffle prizes to ensure that a good many in the crowd would be assisted in their journey toward enlightenment. The grand raffle prize was a ticket to Hong Kong, won by a truly enlightened guy, **Ipe Cruz.**

PAGCOR chair Efraim Genuino and new Mrs. Fields' owners Sheryl and Gerwyn See

PAZZO gelato ice cream owner Sito Senn

Avatar

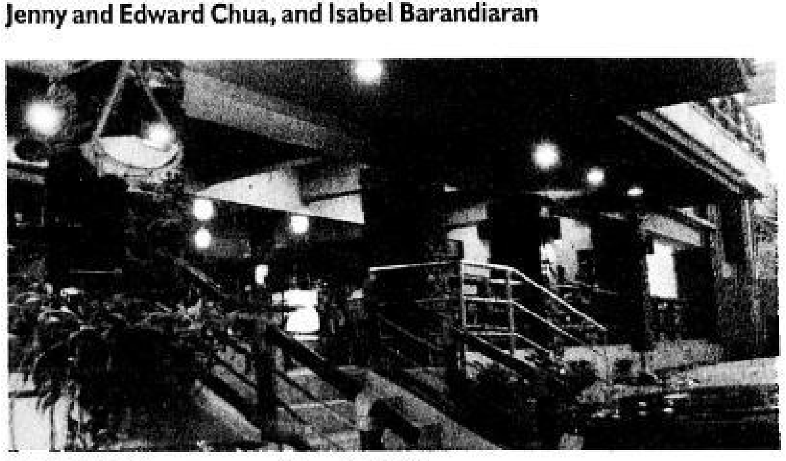
My own HSBC card has been heavily swiped at the recent slew of Greenbelt 5 event parties, such as the recent cocktails for **Butch Carungay**'s Avatar and the opening of funky, talented designer **Kate Torralba**'s new shop. Both Kate and Butch hail from Cebu and the island's creativity is truly showcased at their GB5 outlets.

The very bubbly Butch has the most lavishly awesome fashion accessories, to my mind. For a die-hard accessory queen, his creations are heavenly divine. With Avatar opening at GB5, thanks to him and his Manila partner **Mia Florencio**, I no longer have to trek to Cebu to see the pieces from his latest collections. Faux diamonds are truly my best friends!

Negros trade fair

Speaking of creativity from outlying islands, the 22nd Negros Trade Fair is coming soon! This edition will be held at the Rockwell Tent on Oct. 3-8. The Land of Sugar now generates sweeter-looking products like furniture and furnishings, gifts and houseware, fashion and accessories. This annual fair has also lots of food delicacies that are favorites of my kids.

JAYMI'S Grill owners Jaymi, Juanmi and Queenie Laurel with friends Jenny and Edward Chua, and Isabel Barandiaran


IMPRESSIVE entrance of Jaymi's Grill

HSBC PR ladies Johanna Garcia and Cat Manese

BIKRAM yoga instructor Tristan Choa and Sanya Faustmann

The variety of Negros products has expanded from just the usual Pinoy placemats and decor. With infused materials of natural weaves or shells, the new designs are quite impressive. This is one fair that will certainly be on my calendar!

Pinoy food

Our journey toward enlightenment is often found through food. Comfort food just hits the spot and is the perfect way to relax and relieve stress. In this area, there is nothing like Pinoy food.

Real tasty Pinoy specialties like *sisig*, crispy *pata*, *inihaw na baboy*, *pinalutong na hito* and mango freeze are now being served in Jaymi's Grill, which has found a new home at 802 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati.

From its old place beside the mini-golf course at The Fort, Jaymi's Grill (tel. 815270/81) has moved to a new location near Don Bosco, while still retaining its relaxed ambiance, wooden décor and reasonably priced Pinoy dishes.

With basement parking and a second floor with function rooms for 20-150 persons, this new family restaurant is great for lunch with officemates or just hanging out with friends.

Thanks to Mrs. Field's

My own greatest passion in food is for chocolate. Unfortunately, I've been told that chocolate is bad for the throat, so I am not indulging these days as I am preserving what little voice I have for my continued stint on GMA's "Celebrity Duets."

It's a good thing I was able to eat lots of Mrs. Field's chocolate-chip cookies and fudge brownies weeks ago when they opened the Mrs. Fields Café on the cinema level of the super gigantic TriNoma Mall. The new café is a chocolate lovers nirvana, and also offers birthday cakes, coffee and yummy gelato ice cream.

For those days when one needs an extra dose of happiness, head to Mrs. Field's and get that happy smile on your face! It's one of the best things to find on life's journey toward enlightenment.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

SALA owners Chico Angeles and Colin Mackay

CEBU beauty Amparito Lhuillier and Cebu designer Jun Escario

AVATAR team. Butch Carungay and Mia Florencio

JAYMI'S Grill guests Arsenic Laurel and Alex Prieto

TRAVELIFE Magazine editor Liza Cuenca, Lorraine Belmonte and Allana Montelibano

PAL VP for marketing Felix Cruz, HSBC Deputy CEO Martin Cook and Suresh Nanoo

MRS. FIELDS' guests, former First Lady Imelda Marcos with Leica Carpo and Teyet Pascual

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NEXUS Resort Karambunai
front façade at night

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEXUS RESORT

Sabah: So like and unlike home

STORY ON PAGE D4

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Elevating Lifestyle the TREi Way

It's a hectic world that we live in. Too often we let the daily grind wear us down until we forget to see the good things that life has to offer. While work does have its own rewards, sometimes it's a huge sigh of relief to just stop and smell the roses. We work hard. Why can't we enjoy life to the same degree? One new company is set to provide a positive answer to that question: TREi.

TREi stands for Total Recreational Experience Inc. It's a lifestyle membership club, meaning you join it as a member, paying a one-time lifetime membership fee and plunking down minimal dues monthly. What TREi offers the curious is an elevated quality of living achieved through convenience, time savings and recouping value.

A typical membership club offers privileges and access to a single physical facility. TREi offers so much more. As a luxury brand, it is anchored on partnerships only with premium brands, as befits TREi's target membership, the emerging "A" market, composed of successful entrepreneurs, upwardly mobile professionals, ambitious managers destined to climb the corporate ladder, celebrities who need their pampering and accomplished executives at the top of their game. TREi goes the distance, delivering unprecedented access to premium lifestyle brands, exclusive events, and personalized services..

What Exactly Is TREI?

More than anything else, "what we're offering is convenience, time and value," explains TREi Chief Executive Officer Ricky Gutierrez. "We deliver that through our premium brand partners and our TLC concierge service by removing much of the bother that you'd normally have to face."

Discounts and rewards are a part of it. Flashing your TREI Lifestyle Membership Card at any of TREI's partner establishments will get you preferential rates, discounts and other premiums. However, it's the uber-convenience that TREi's concierge service that adds immense value to this proposition.

"It's all about addressing lifestyle needs," says Pam Davila-Pascual, TREi's Chief Operating Officer. [Our market is] busy, driven, successful, and they know what they want. TREi puts together personalized lifestyle products and services, giving TREi members access to premium brands across different aspects of lifestyle. This includes travel, dining, luxury cars, events, even health care." It's in the specialized delivery platform they've branded as TLC where TREi shines

TLC from the TREI Lifestyle Counselors

Walk around Makati at night and you'll find hordes of young people milling about outside office buildings in the wee hours of the morning. The Philippines is call center country, and it makes absolute sense to meld the concept of the hotel concierge with 24/7 business process outsourcing. TLC stands for TREi Lifestyle Counselor, your personal helpdesk available anytime. Touted to be the strongest concierge platform ever, TLC will help you sort out your needs and schedules. Just give your TLC a call at 438-TREI (8734). Need someone to give you advice on how to impress an important client or where to take your date? Dial that number. Whatever the need, be assured that assistance is only a phone call away.

Lest you doubt their powers, TREI Lifestyle Counselors are trained to guide, inform and assist you under the direct supervision of a Clefs d'Or Concierge, a member of the Union Internationale des Concierges d'Hotels, Les Clefs d'Or. Wish fulfillment is their sole role in life, achieving miracles through a worldwide network of handshakes and smiles.

TLCs are trained to provide various indispensable services. These include assistance in booking worldwide travel and accommodations, referral and reservation, delivery and messenger services, and even personal services such as personal shopping or travel planning. Their capabilities are, by no means, limited to these key services. "The most daunting challenge our TLCs have had to face so far was to book a yacht for a party just one day in advance," mentions Pascual. Yachts typically need to be booked a month in advance in order to give the crew time to prepare the vessel.

Whatever the needs of its members, TREi is there to respond, whether you need to charter a private jet at short notice or just have flowers delivered to the girl next door.

Becoming TREI

To become part of the exclusive TREI family is simply a matter of signing up and investing in the lifetime membership fee and monthly dues. Three packages are available, Individual, Family and Corporate, each with their respective costs and particulars. The breadth of TREi's offerings to its members ensures benefits to everyone, whether you're a young upwardly mobile professional, a family man who wants to spend more time with the kids, or a captain of industry.

Signing up immediately gives you your choice of reward: a P10,000 shopping spree at a TREi Shopping Event or a Wellness Package, an Ultimate Escape Travel Package to select locations such as Boracay, Palawan, or Baguio and bonus airline miles. Should you be among the first 500 to become a TREI member, you also get the choice between having your monthly dues waived for the first year, or 2 room nights at the Hotel PonteFino in Batangas for five years.

As a TREi member, you will receive the TREi Lifestyle Membership Card, with all its included privileges, access to the TREi concierge service, and premium rewards designed to enhance your lifestyle.

To facilitate entry into the world of TREi is the TREi Lifestyle Membership Card. Presenting this at partner establishments automatically gives you preferential rates in top shelf resorts and hotels, airlines, restaurants, business centers, healthcare facilities, car rentals, as well as discounts and premiums from luxury brands.

If you're quite the party animal, TREi is likewise heavily involved in events. Need to jazz up your nightlife? TREi gives you VIP access to the hottest concerts, entry into exclusive fashion shows, good seats at movie premieres and more.

Working with Brand Partners

Being a luxury lifestyle enabler, TREi partners only with brand names that are synonymous with elegance, class and exceptional quality. People trust brand names and tend to gravitate towards such marked products and services. "Right now we have over fifty establishments as premium partners with over a hundred variants of products and services," details Pascual. "We work continually to grow that roster and right now we have BMW, Store Specialists Inc, El Nido Resorts, even Gymboree and The Medical City among our partners." The list is long and illustrious, and encompasses multiple industries from iconic fashion brands such as Ferragamo and Prada, computing lifestyle brands like Crumpler and Power-MAC Center, fine dining among all Chateau 1771 restaurants among others, and hotels and resorts in top destinations.

Living the TREI Life

We walk this earth but once and it would be tragic for us to miss out on real living. Why hurry through life when it ends far too abruptly? Remember, it's not the speed of life that matters. It's how you actually live it. That's what TREi is all about. TREI lets you live your life the way you want to, at your own convenience, in your sweet time, and relishing it for all it's worth.

"You want it?" asks Pascual? "TREi can make it happen And that's a promise."

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Your TREi Lifestyle Counselor (TLC)
TREi's 24/7 virtual concierge may be accessed anytime from anywhere in the country for assistance in various lifestyle needs. Plan a vacation, book airline tickets, make reservations at a fancy restaurant, get the latest information on exclusive sale events, or send flowers to your loved one, all from your mobile phone. Your own personal TLC - dedicated, courteous, efficient and fully capable of providing the ultimate form of personalized concierge service.

Take the Ultimate Lifestyle Upgrade with TREi
TREi believes in treating its members to the finest experiences possible.
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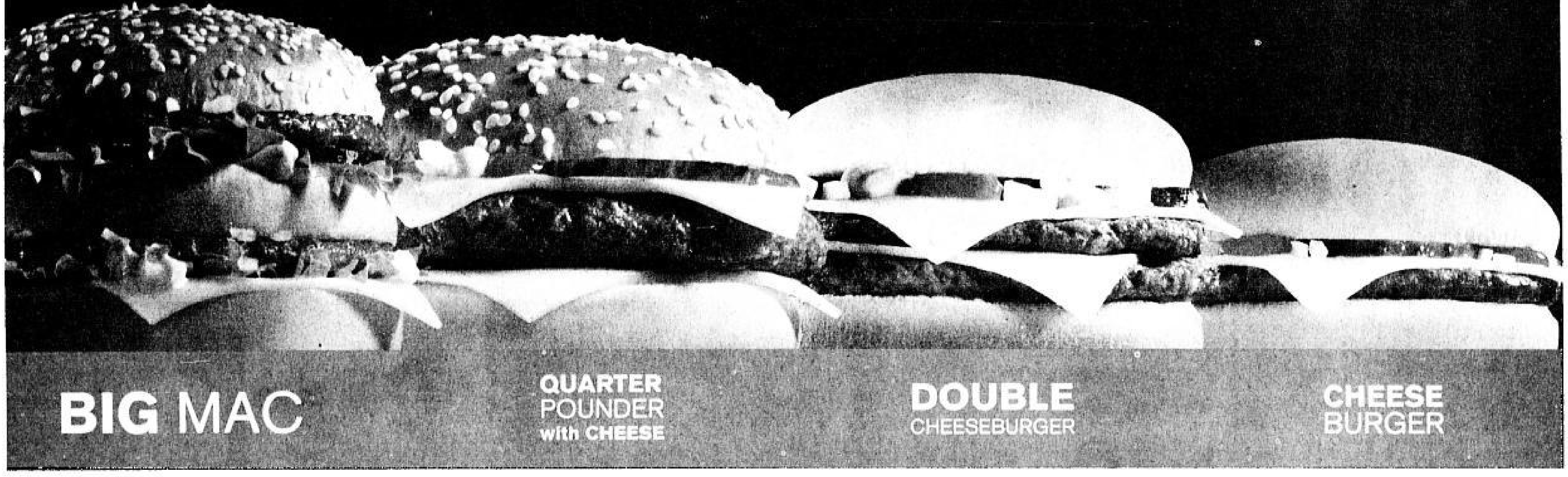

love ko 'to™

McDonald's is guided by four simple words: Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value (QSC&V). These are the words that shape the way McDonald's runs its stores and organization, serves its customers and most especially cooks its food.

This is the primary reason why McDonald's customers are assured that their favorite Cheeseburger and Quarter Pounder with Cheese are prepared and packaged at McDonald's approved meat plants. Its patties are 100 percent pure beef with no additives and preservatives. The beef patties are grilled without fats and oil, with only salt and pepper for flavoring.

In preparing McDonald's signature Big Mac, deft, precision and proper timing are crucial. There are a series of steps to follow—steps that are carefully researched in the McDonald's test kitchens here and abroad for maximum QSC&V. And it has to be executed in a kitchen where the pace is furious, the pressure is intense and crew members are darting in and out.

And because McDonald's wants all its customers get a taste of all its quality food anytime of the day, selected McDonald's stores in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao are now open 24 hours.

QUARTER POUNDER

everyday PREMIUM burgers
100% PURE BEEF
Big Mac Value Meal
P[illegible] NOW ONLY
P99

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open 24 hours

METRO MANILA: AIRPORT ROAD • ALABANG • BACLARAN REDEMPTORIST • BACLARAN ROTONDA • BANAWE • BANKMER • BARANGKA • BINONDO • BRIDGESTONE • BUENDIA • CALTEX SLEX • EASTWOOD • EDSA BONI • EDSA I.T. • EDSA PANAY • EL PUEBLO • EMERALD • EVANGELISTA • GOV. FORBES • GREENBELT • KABIHASNAN • KATIPUNAN • LAS PIÑAS • MADRIGAL • MAKATI AVE. • MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE • MARCOS HIGHWAY • MATALINO • MCU • NEW FRONTIER • NORTH GATE • P. CAMPA • PALANYAG • PASIG PLAZA • PEDRO GIL • PEOPLE SUPPORT • PETRON SOUTH • PHILCOA • PRC • QUEZON AVE. • QUIRINO AVE. • REGALADO • SAN JOAQUIN • STRATA 100 • TIMES • TOMAS MORATO • U.N. AVE. • VALERO • WILSON PROVINCIAL: CDO DIVISORIA • CEBU JONES • CEBU SYKES • DAVAO BAJADA • FUENTE OSMEÑA • GISELLE PLAZA • JY SQUARE, CEBU • ILOILO ATRIUM • LIPA AYALA • OLONGAPO MAGSAYSAY • VILLA ESCUDERO

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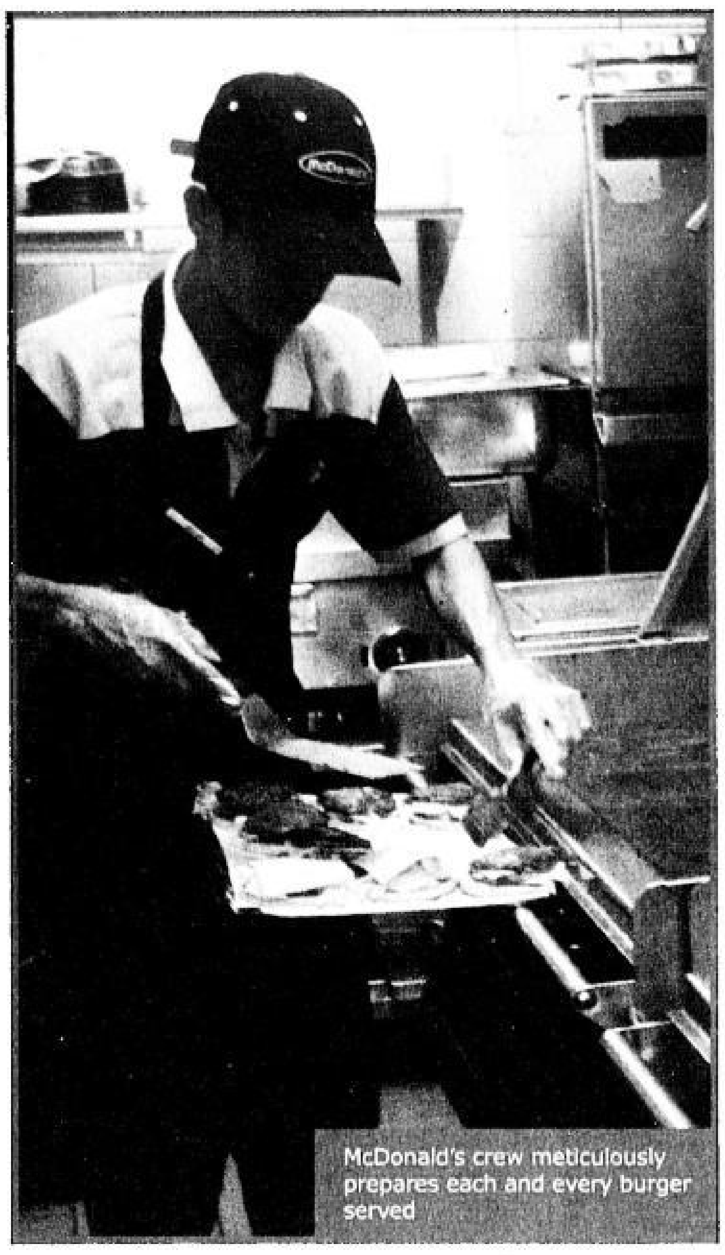

McDonald's crew meticulously prepares each and every burger served

All burgers are served hot and fresh from the bin

Served with a smile: customers enjoy eating their favorite McDonald's burger

A Fresh Approach to Food

- Even before the beef arrives at the plant, our supplier conducts several separate quality checks on every batch.
- Greens like lettuce, used in the Big Mac and other sandwiches are grown and harvested by farmers who follow the McDonald's Agricultural Assurance Program. They are free from traces of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and are cut and processed on the same day to guarantee freshness and quality.

Open Doors

"Customers can feel at ease knowing they are getting only the freshest and best quality burgers at McDonald's," says McDonald's Vice President for Marketing Margot Torres.

everyday PREMIUM burgers
100% PURE BEEF

Quarter Pounder with Cheese Value Meal

~~P145~~ NOW ONLY P99

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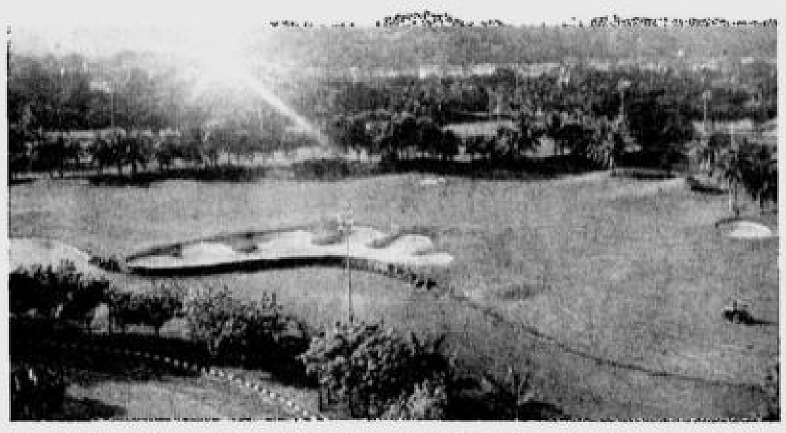
SUTERA Harbour Resort's 104-berth Marina

MAGELLAN SUTERA, the other hotel building of the Sutera Harbour Resort, is named after the famous Portuguese explorer



SUNRISE at Nexus Resort Karambunai, another world-class resort

Sabah: So like and unlike home

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

SABAH'S HISTORICAL links and proximity to the Philippines make it a familiar name to Filipinos.

Though not yet a popular destination for Filipino travelers, it has become a land of opportunity for people looking for overseas work.

Hundreds of Filipinos travel to Sabah via the nation's backdoor, finding livelihood there or permanent residence.

In Sabah, a Filipino village is not a rarity, often consisting of houses by the river or on stilts. In the heart of the city is what is known as a Filipino market, not very different from Divisoria or Greenhills.

Filipinos are all over the place—from managers to staff members of various establishments and, of course, in bands playing in hotels and restaurants.

The second largest of Malaysia's 13 states, Sabah is on Borneo, the world's third largest island, and is very near Jolo. Only about a fourth of the Philippines in size, Sabah attracts more than two million tourists a year.

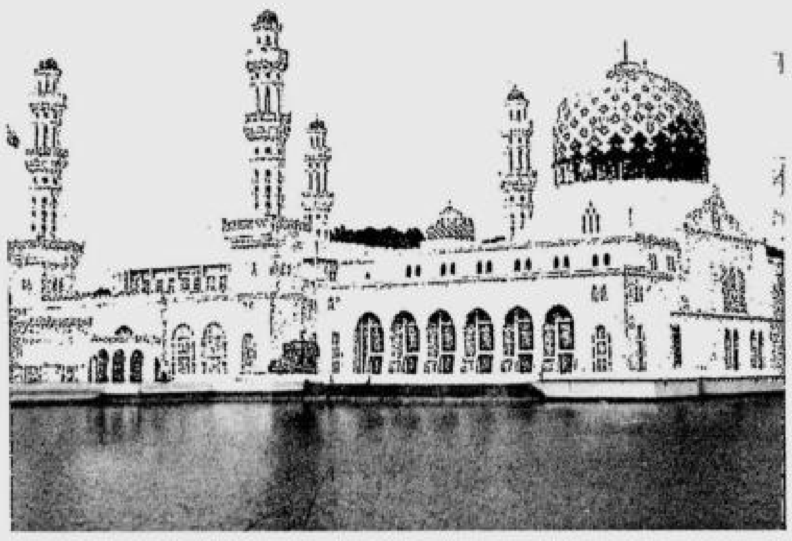
It has world-class hotels and resorts as well as bed and breakfast establishments. Mount Kinabalu, the tallest in Southeast Asia at 4,095 meters, looms over the city though it is often shrouded in mist and clouds.

Sabah has named its capital, Kota Kinabalu, after the majestic peak, in reverence to the mountain. Kota, by the way, means city.

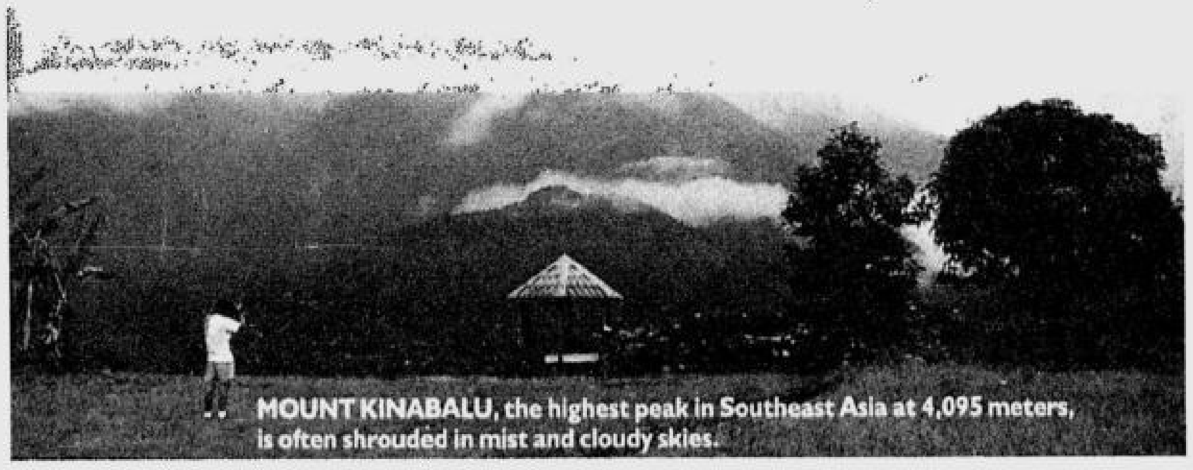
Until the mid-15th century, Sabah was under the Sultan of Sulu and Brunei. In 1881, the British North Borneo Chartered Company was set up to rule North Borneo. It administered Sabah until 1942 when the Japanese invaded.

After World War II, the British returned and made Sabah a Crown Colony. In 1963, Sabah gained her independence and joined the Federation of Malaysia.

AERIAL view of Nexus Resort Karambunai [illegible]



THE KOTA Kinabalu City Mosque has similar features to the Nabawi Mosque in Medina. Built in 1997 at Likas Bay near the sea, its prayer hall can accommodate up to 12,000 people.



MOUNT KINABALU, the highest peak in Southeast Asia at 4,095 meters, is often shrouded in mist and cloudy skies.

Scenic countryside

A tour of Sabah's countryside will make you feel like you have not left home. The scenery is very similar to the Philippines' rural areas, save for satellite discs for television broadcast reception and Internet and phone cables.

Coconut trees and lush greenery line the long and seemingly never-ending road. Houses are far apart, with large windows often made of capiz. They are supported by sturdy, long wooden poles allowing for *silong* where hammocks are hung or where locals keep produce and other items.

It is easy to confuse the locals with Filipinos, since both belong to the Malay race. Even their language has many words similar to Tagalog.

The beautiful and scenic Kiulu River provides an exciting introduction to white-water rafting. Riding down the stream over gentle rapids, one passes lush green jungles and Dusun orchards and villages. Bikers cross the river through a hanging bridge.

> Filipinos are all over the place as managers or staff members of various establishments and, of course, in bands

At Klias Wetland, a Bruneian-Malay village, one finds wildlife like the endemic long-nosed proboscis monkey and various species of birds. On a moonless night, the mangrove-lined river is lit by thousands of fireflies.

Kinabalu Park at the foot of Mount Kinabalu is Malaysia's first World Heritage site. Much of Sabah's renowned eco-treasures can be found here. One does not need climbing skills to scale the jagged granite peaks of the mountain, but only has to be fit. It takes at least two days to complete the hike.

SUSPENDED at 157.8 meters, the canopy walk was once used by scientists to do research on Sabah's million-year old rainforest.

The Poring Hot Spring in Ranau has open-air Japanese-style baths, its sulfuric water reputed to have properties to cure skin problems. A trek through the rainforest with at least 100-foot canopies reveals life on treetops.

Highlights of the city tour include the Tun Mustapha Building, Sabah Museum, University Malaysia Sabah, Sabah State Mosque and City Mosque, and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

World-class

The progressive city boasts of world-class resorts like the Sutera Harbour. Considered as Asia's first fully integrated resort, it sits on 384 acres of glorious seafront property and consists of the Pacific Sutera and Magellan Sutera hotels with a combined 956 guest rooms and suites.

Nexus Resort Karambunai, another world-class resort, occupies 3,335 acres of natural and landscaped surroundings. The Karambunai Peninsula faces the South China Sea and has six kilometers of pristine white-sand beaches and a million-year-old tropical rainforest.

Sabah also has two Shangri-La resort hotels: Shangri-La Tanjung Aru and Shangri-La Rasa Ria.

Getting to Sabah is easy. One can fly from Manila or Cebu by Malaysia Airlines and from Clark by Air Asia, which offers cheap air fares all year round.

The trip to Sabah, Malaysia, was made possible by the Sabah Tourism Board, Malaysia Airlines and Destinations Unlimited, a tour operator servicing outbound clients worldwide. Call 8964811 or 8964732.

E-mail the author at jnigos @inquirer.com.ph.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

DOT asks local gov'ts to work together for tourism

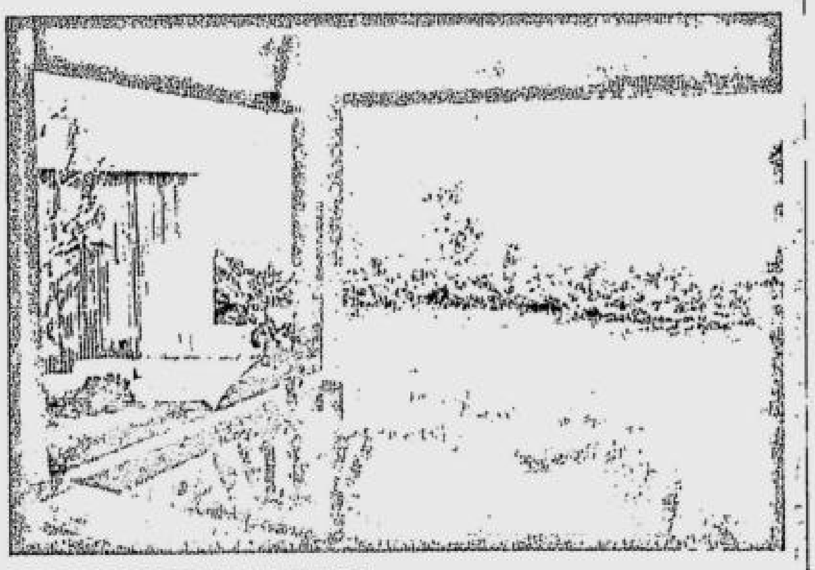
Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano announced the Department of Tourism's support for local governments that would like to develop and promote their areas as tourist destinations. He made the announcement during the 18th Philippine Travel Mart recently held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. The event showcased the top attractions, indigenous crafts and culture of the country's 16 regions. Dubbed as the Sale'ng Bayan for travelers, exhibit visitors received special gifts and discounts from participating air carriers and tour operators.

Religious pilgrimage

A pilgrimage to some religious sites in Europe has been organized by author Visitacion "Chit" dela Torre. In Fatima, Portugal, the group will visit the Our Lady of Fatima Basilica, tombs of Francisco and Jacinta, and watch a candlelight procession. In Spain, the trip shall include a visit to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, St. Theresa of Avila, a tour of Madrid and Valencia. From there, the group moves to Montserrat, Barcelona and Zaragoza, site of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar. In Lourdes, France, it will visit the Grotto of St. Bernadette. From Lourdes , the group proceeds to Nice, Genoa, Pisa and Assisi, Italy. At Assisi, the group tours the Basilica of St. Francis, Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeli, and thornless rose garden and Transito Chapel where St. Francis of Assisi died. The journey ends in Rome, Italy where the participants will have an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square. Also to be visited are the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, San Giovanni in Laterano Church, Scala Santa Monument, St. Paul's outside the Walls Church and a tour of Trevi Fountain. Fr. Gerry Tapiador is the group's pilgrimage chaplain. Call 8154938 or 8156925; e-mail chitdelatorre @yahoo.com.

New airline destination

South East Asian Airlines (Seair) has announced flights to Pagadian City, the provincial capital of Zamboanga del Sur, from Cebu every Monday and Thursday. The Cebu-Pagadian-Cebu route is in line with the Clark-based airline's expansion plans for this year. After opening a regional hub in Zamboanga City in 2002, Seair now flies to Jolo and Tawi-Tawi on a daily basis and to Cotabato every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Present for the inaugural flight at the Pagadian Airport were President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano. Call Seair Manila at 8490100; Cebu at 032-3414879; and Pagadian at 062-2153831 or 35.



FIRST-CLASS AMENITIES

The Amorita Beach Resort on Panglao Island in Bohol offers first-class amenities and services. Guests can enjoy the infinity swimming pool, a juice bar and an all-day restaurant, in addition to the beach. A wellness spa and a dive shop will open soon. Amorita's facilities are designed to meet every guest's needs. It has spacious function rooms, luxurious rooms and private villas with plunge pools. Call 9140585, e-mail inquiries@amoritaresort.com or visit www.amoritaresort.com.

Sunday LifeStyle

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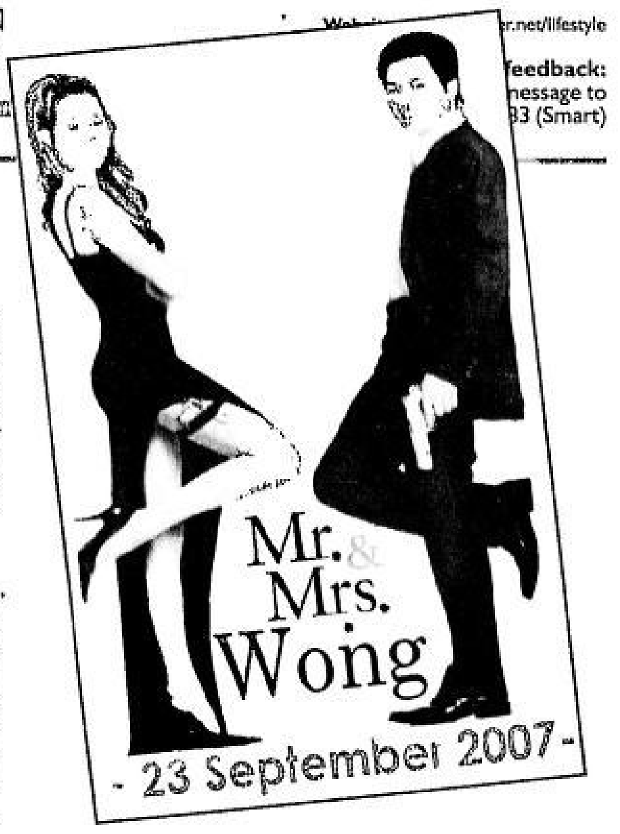
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sanders.*

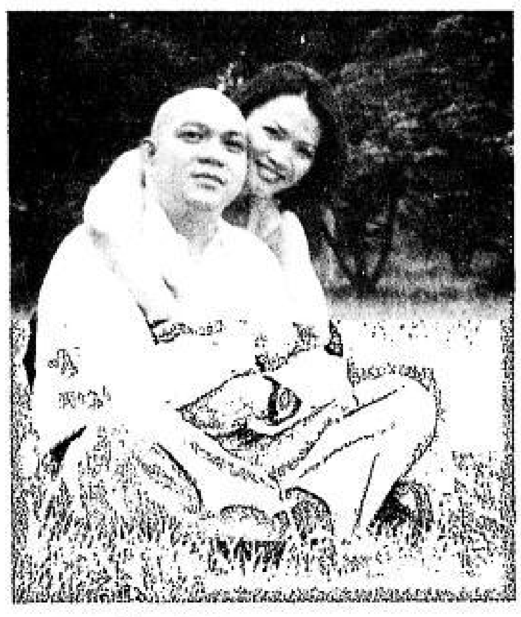
CARAIG-ANG GOBONSENG

Sherwin Pajulas Caraig, son of **Pilar Lu Pajulas**, wed recently **Juvy Lyn Peralta Ang Gobonseng**, daughter of **Andres** and **Victoria Ang Gobonseng** at Dumaguete Christian Church. Reception was held at The Spanish Heritage—the premier events venue in Dumaguete City.



WONG-FILIPINO

David Wong, son of **Wong Wang Pong** and **Sy Piak Gioc**, will wed **Jacqueline Filipino**, daughter of **Lim Giok Seng Filipino** and **Wong B. Muy** on Sept. 23 at the United Evangelical Church of The Philippines. Reception will be held at Dragon Gate Seafood Restaurant.



AMIN-CELAJE

Maria Grandolla J. Amin, M.D., daughter of Mr. **Manuel S. Amin** (deceased) and Mrs. **Barbara J. Amin**, is getting married to **Joel C. Celaje, IV**, M.D., son of Mr. **Joel M. Celaje** and Mrs. **Dulia C. Celaje**, on Sept. 8 at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City. The bride will be wearing a gown of her own design, with the help of stylist **Kenneth Chua**.

SANTOS-PANCHO

Ivan Dominic Santos will wed **Arabella Pancho** on Sept. 30, 4 p.m. at the San Sebastian Church. Reception will be held at One Esplanade.

GABOR-RAMOS

Julius Cuevas Gabor, son of lawyer **Carmelito** and **Josefa Gabor** (deceased), will wed **Liezel Sarmiento Ramos**, daughter of **Divino** (deceased) and **Nenita Ramos** on Sept. 22, 4:30 p.m. in a Christian ceremony at Leslie's Garden.

Storywriting contest

ANGEL'S WINK PRODUCTION IS holding the "My (Funny) Love Affair" story writing contest.

The competition is part of the "Weddings... Get Set... Go!!!" bridal fair, now on its fifth year, on Oct. 13-14 at the Rockwell Tent.

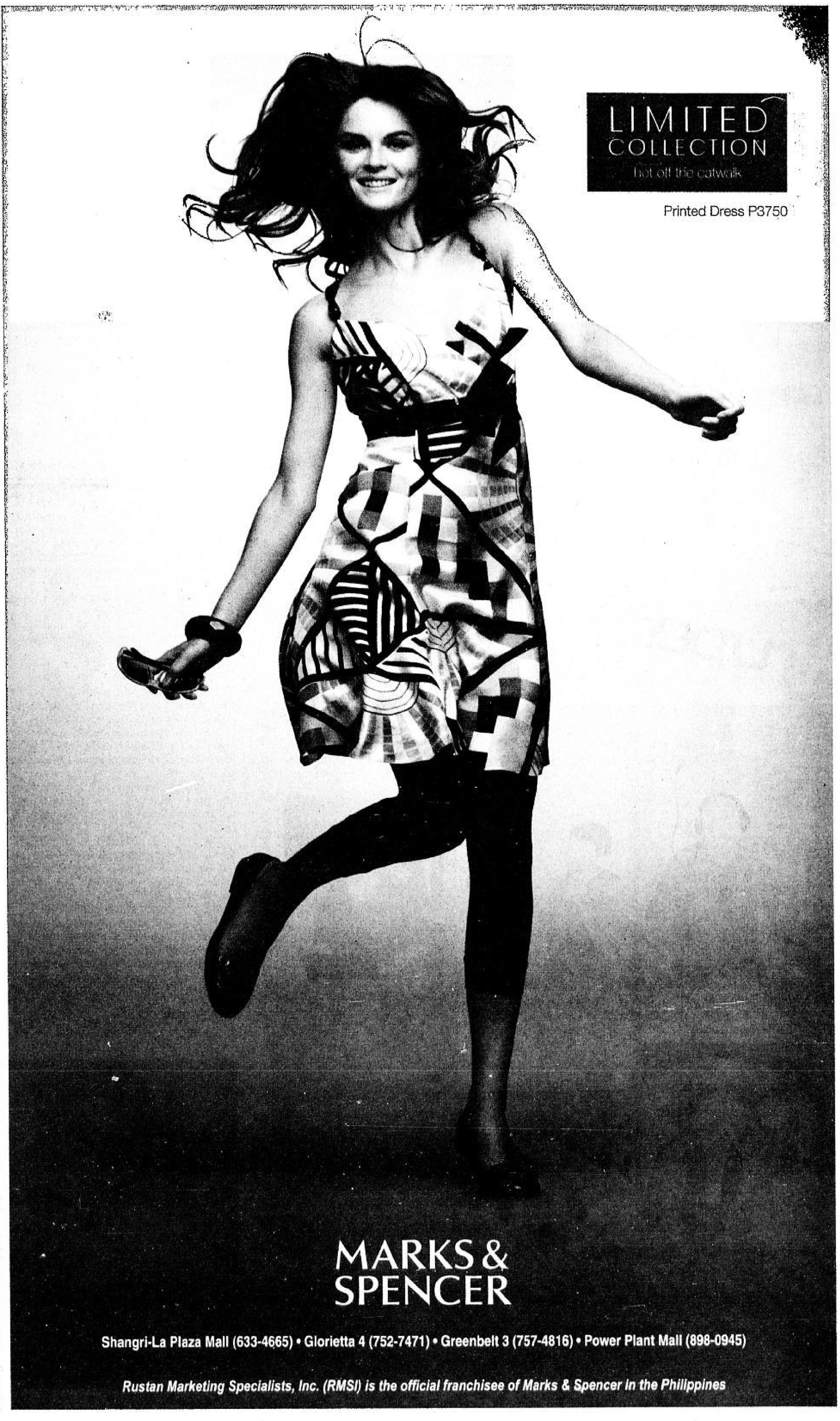
Soon-to-weds can write down unforgettable moments with their future husband/wife. The story has to be amusing and should have the "*kilig*" factor.

It should also be true.

Participants should have their wedding dates Oct. 13, 2007-Oct. 13, 2008 and must be able to prove it in case they win.

Entries should be e-mailed to myfunnyloveaffair@angelswink.biz. Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 10.

Cash prizes and gift certificates from sponsors and event partners are at stake (5469477, text 0918-3122210, www.angelswink.biz).



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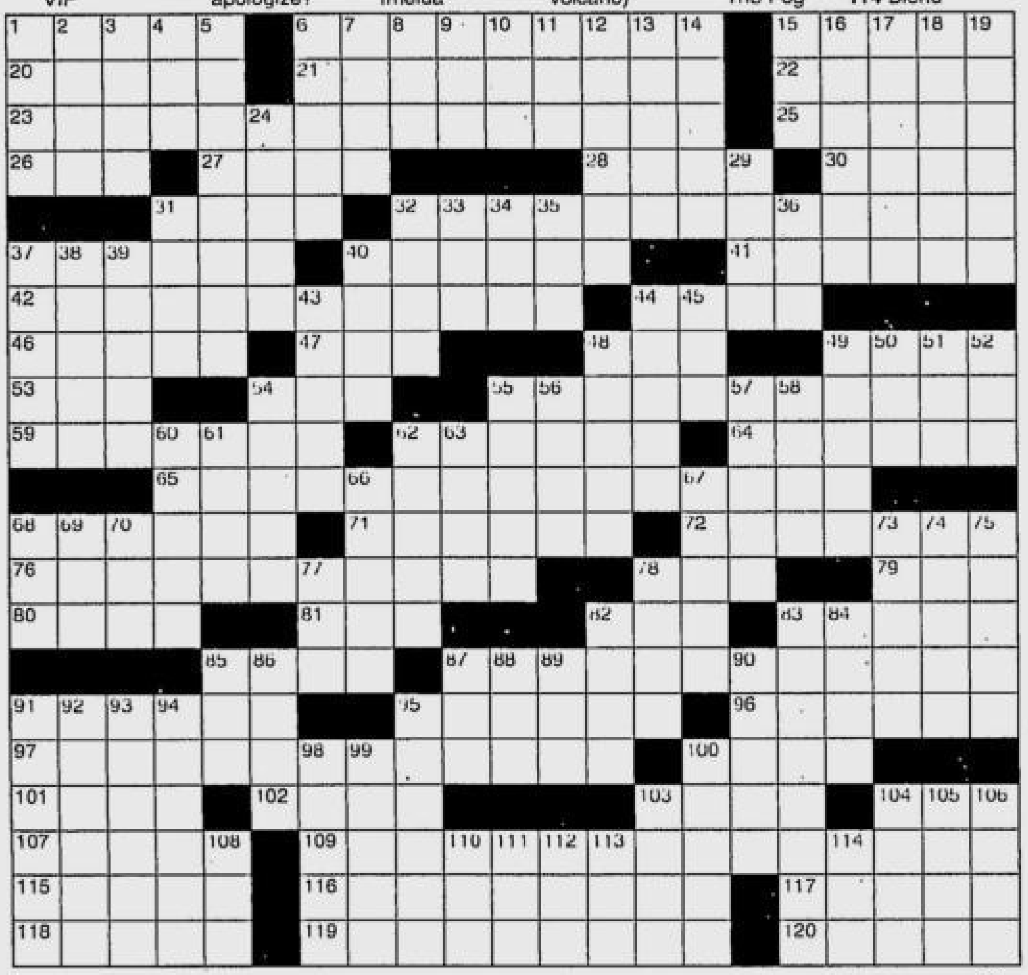
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BIRD PLAY

ACROSS
1 Calling costs
6 City SE of L.A.
15 Capital on the Seine
20 Run — (go berserk: Var.)
21 Basic algebra expressions
22 Actress Papas
23 Bird's cravings?
25 Eat a bit of
26 Mined rocks
27 Come in last
28 James of "Las Vegas"
30 Conquer
31 Ice sheet
32 Comment after your bird does something crude?
37 Tons
40 Cafes
41 River to the Missouri
42 Made a bird?
44 Lord's wife
46 Stops
47 Had life
48 Young man
49 Marketed
53 Biblical suffix
54 Capitol Hill VIP
55 Roost where a bird sits and vocalizes?
59 Put out a new printing of
62 African expedition
64 The yellow Teletubby
65 Hybrid bird?
68 Old Chevy model
71 Extremely
72 Range of vision
76 Bird from long ago?
78 Idiot boxes
79 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
80 Praise-filled poems
81 Realtor's unit
82 Winning sign
83 Caribbean scuba spot
85 Choir song
87 Crazy bird?
91 Composer Mahler
95 Lead-in to a bit of gossip
96 Fla. retirement city, briefly
97 Advice for a bird that should apologize?
100 "Pee- — Big Adventure"
101 In re
102 Fodder tower
103 Having on footwear
104 Alternative to a PC
107 Twilights
109 Bird that's a relative?
115 Poet T.S. —
116 Only thing that doesn't fit in
117 Rake prongs
118 Actor DeVito
119 Stars with young fans
120 Have life

DOWN
1 Chalupa kin
2 Sharif of "Ashanti"
3 Draw in
4 PC monitor type
5 Frying pans
6 Demean
7 Cleopatra's river
8 Furthermore
9 Weeding tool
10 They're between els and ens
11 It's opposite IX on clocks
12 Ferdinand or Imelda
13 Just-washed
14 State in NE India
15 Plum center
16 Qatar's land
17 Feel ill will at
18 In one piece
19 Be irate
24 Hanging loop
29 "— Blue" (cop show)
31 Horizontal
32 Zadora and others
33 2005 Best Director — Lee
34 Theology subj.
35 "Dr." who raps
36 Go by plane
37 Brownish yellow color
38 Make a speech
39 New — (India's capital)
40 University VIP
43 Nerdy type
44 Livy's language
45 Big flap
48 Film director Mervyn
49 Saturates
50 Barn bird
51 Mauna — (Hawaiian volcano)
52 Genetic material
54 Poison ivy's cousin
55 Habitually
56 Catch in the act
57 Sculpting materials
58 Seldom seen
60 Signs of healing
61 Notes between fa and ti
62 Hog sound
63 Longest Swiss river
66 "The battle —!"
67 Tier
68 "Sands of — Jima"
69 Angry
70 "Ginger —" (Eleanor Estes kids' book)
73 — cuisine
74 Celestial path
75 Vestige
77 J-N connection
78 Watch over
82 Extremely
83 Precede
84 Knocks sharply
85 Holbrook of "The Fog"
86 Part of YSL
87 It follows pi
88 — Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
89 Alternate spelling of a wd.
90 Make — (do something with)
91 Impelled
92 Actress Andress
93 Substitutes (for)
94 Accepted, as a challenge
95 Tryster with Tristan
98 Prejudiced person
99 Evade
100 Stimulates
103 Jewish temple
104 Prefix with van
105 Beers in Britain
106 Anatomical sac
108 Hog hangout
110 Chaney of old horror
111 Ending of pasta names
112 Beau of Nancy Drew
113 Overly
114 Blend



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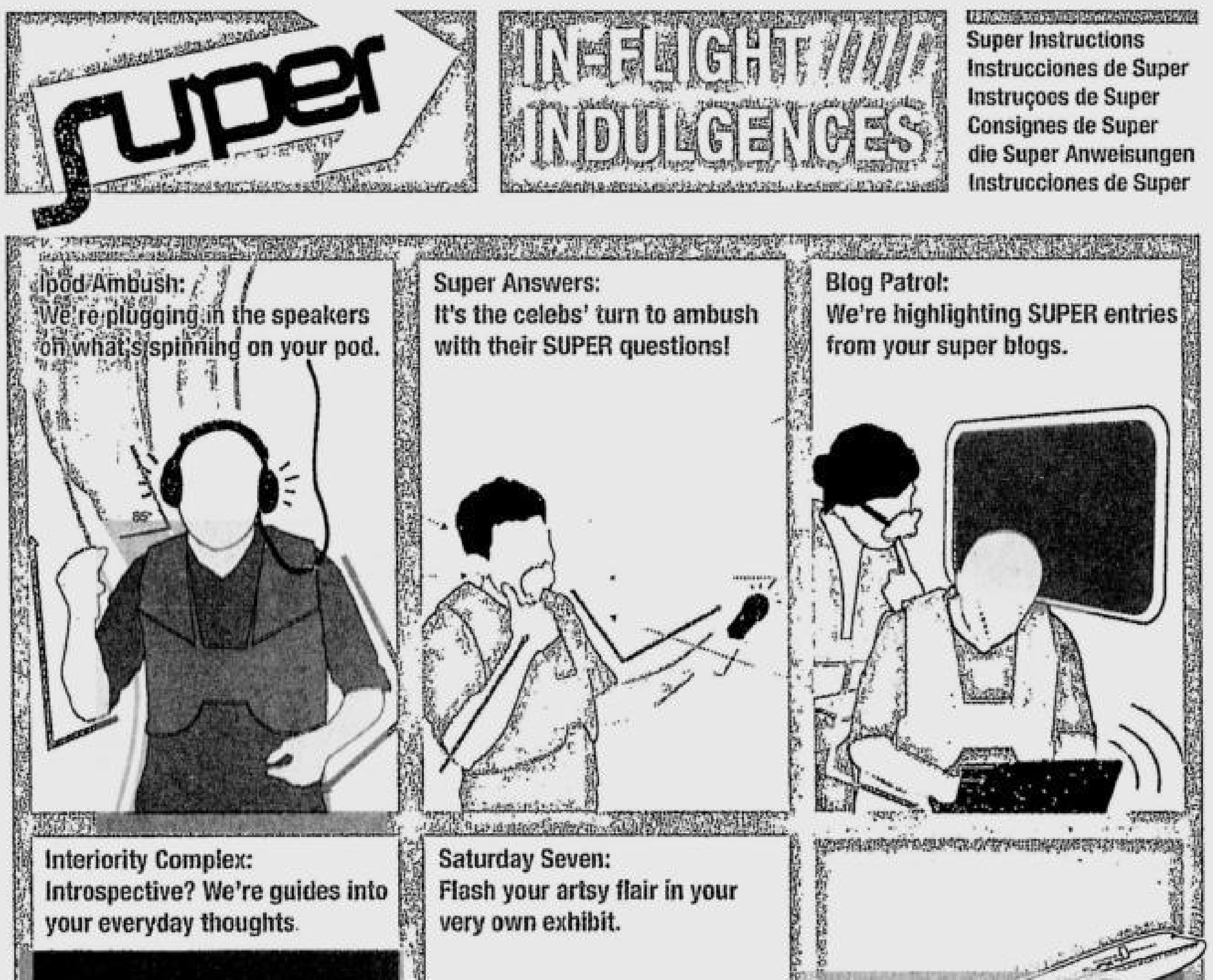

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Instrucciones de Super
Instruçoes de Super
Consignes de Super
die Super Anweisungen
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Ipod Ambush: We're plugging in the speakers on what's spinning on your pod.

Super Answers: It's the celebs' turn to ambush with their SUPER questions!

Blog Patrol: We're highlighting SUPER entries from your super blogs.

Interiority Complex: Introspective? We're guides into your everyday thoughts.

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TRY MY NIGHTLIFE
FEARLESS FOOD REVIEW
SUPER SETUP
STATUS QUOTE
SPACE INVASION

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PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Patroness of Vietnamese Christians

> The devotion to Our Lady of La Vang, named after a fern that grows in central Vietnam, has spread with pilgrims from all over the world visiting her shrine in what is now Quang Tri City

Kỷ Niệm
200 Năm Đức Mẹ La Vang
1798 - 1998

OUR Lady of La Vang

LA VANG IS A FERN THAT GROWS DEEP in the forest in central Vietnam where the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared in 1798 to Vietnamese Christians when they were being persecuted.

Presenting herself as the Mother of God, she consoled and advised the people to use the leaves of the fern to treat ailments. She promised to help them.

The devotion to Our Lady of La Vang has spread. Pilgrims from all over the world visit her shrine in what is now Quang Tri City.

The church was consecrated in 1928 in the presence of 20,000 pilgrims. It was elevated by Pope John XXIII to a basilica minore in 1962 but was destroyed in 1972 during the Vietnam war. After it was rebuilt, it became the Basilica of La Vang.

In 1988, Pope John Paul II canonized the 117 Vietnamese Martyrs in the basilica. The 200th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of La Vang was celebrated that same year.

To go to La Vang, call Marissa dela Paz, 7532551, Trends Travel Mart, or e-mail marissa@trendstravelmart.com.

Kanta Misa

Nolky Silvestre said Aug. 22, feast of the Queenship of Mary, was special for Fr. Bernie O. Diaz, CM, because he debuted in the world of liturgical-religious music.

The official launch of his "Kanta Misa," a song book for choir and congregation/community, was highlighted by a solemn Mass officiated by Provincial Visitor Fr. Bienvenido Disu, CM, and concelebrated with Fr. Renato Ruelos, parish priest of San Vicente de Paul Church, together with at least 15 Vincentian priests.

A short program hosted by Fr. Raymond Regua followed. Fr. Bernie's mentor, the Grand Old Man of Filipino Music, Maestro Alfredo Buenaventura, gave an engaging talk on his continuing musical journey showcasing his wonderful gift of humor.

Fr. Randy Agner, CM, delivered a very informative talk that underscored the role of liturgical music today. Emotionally overwhelmed, the unassuming Fr. Bernie was warm and welcoming in his response.

Fr. Bernie's versatility and unique sensitivity as a promising young songwriter shone through as the Sta. Isabel Choir, under the baton of Maribel Miguel, sang the melodious and uplifting "Tayo na sa Panginoon", the well-articulated "Paghahandog"; the lyrical and poetic "Buhay Ko'y Laan"; the dramatic and brilliantly arranged "Ama Namin"; the divine, soulful and stirring "Aba Ginoong Maria", and the gleeful, catchy, and festive "San Vicente, Sinugo ng Diyos."

Each composition was an inspiring and meaningful liturgical piece.

Copies of the songbook are now available at the St. Vincent de Paul religious store.

Prayer companion

"Straight from the Heart... A Prayer Companion" authored by Rev. Fr. Mario Jose C. Ladra of the Diocese of Malolos is a personal collection of prayers that, over the years, had been his source of comfort and solace during his moments of difficulties, trials and crisis.

Fr. Mar invites everyone to say at least one prayer that generates a great loving faith to start a journey of blessing and healing.

The book will be launched today at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in Pleasant Hill Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan on the feast of its patron saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila.

Another launch will be held at 6 p.m., Sept. 28, at St. Paul's Bookstore in SM Megamall. Copies of the book are available at all St. Paul outlets nationwide at a very affordable price. The book will be a beautiful gift for Christmas and other special occasions.

Hermandad

It started as an online photo-sharing group with Mark Anthony Cadawas, Francis Casas (who are both in North America), and Dr. Erwin Carabeo as administrators.

Since they shared a common interest in Holy Week images, processions and other Lenten practices, they called the group "Mahal na Araw: Lilok at Panata." Some three months later, the group has more than 300 members.

On Sept. 23, the Hermandad de la Sagrada Pasion will be formally launched as an organization. Members of the board include Nolie Hans, Clifford Chua, Jorge Allan Tengco and Dennis Maturan. Dr. Carabeo is president.

The event will coincide with the Encuentro III to be held in Casita de San Jose, Baliuag, Bulacan. Highlights of the meeting include a Mass, veneration of relics of the cross and a mini exhibit of crosses and crucifixes. Those who like to join the *hermandad* can text 0927-6775195. The exhibit will feature a replica of the famous Holy Cross of Alitagtag and Bauan.

Monastic vocation

Don Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, said the monastic vocation seminar I wrote about in 1997 attracted many aspirants. One remained to become a monk and a priest.

Another monastic vocation talk will be held 9 a.m., Oct. 6, at Pope Pius XII Catholic Center UN Ave., Paco, Manila. Text 0917-5105585 or 0927-9362084. Fr. Prior Savio Siccauan and Dom Martin are speakers.

Forum

June Keithley will speak during a Pro-Life Philippines forum 8 a.m.-12 noon, Sept. 29, at the Good Shepherd Convent, 1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City.

Seminar

A Marian encounter seminar will be held today at the Manresa Retreat Home, 926 Banawe St. cor. Sta. Rosa near Del Monte Inc., Quezon City. Call Sis. Luz, 7438729 or Sis. Cherry, 2310174.

Trip

Msgr. Jerome Reyes of Binondo Church will lead pilgrims to the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan Oct. 17-29. Call Adam's Travel at 5211651/5211698.

September is thanksgiving month for me. I celebrated my birthday on Sept. 19 and my book "Purely Personal Book of Miracles" marked its first anniversary on Sept. 8. By God's grace, my book is a bestseller at National Book Store.

San Lorenzo Ruiz

The Basilica Minore of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo will hold a procession at 4 p.m., Sept. 28, around the district. Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate in the Concelebrated Mass at 5:30 p.m.

FR. Bernie Diaz, CM, composer of "Kanta Misa"

EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo

Is it time to say goodbye?

DEAR EMILY

I met Jon in 2001. We worked in the same company.

It all started when he was asked by our superior to help me with my project. He was very kind and sweet.

After the project was finished, we still went out together. We really enjoyed each other's company.

The only problem was I was married and already had a daughter while he was engaged to be married.

His wedding was held as planned while I had a second baby.

But that did not stop us.

Everyone in the office noticed our growing closeness. They even tried assigning us to different sections. But still that did not stop us.

The more they tried to separate us, the more we wanted to be together.

It has already been six years. But our love for each other has grown even stronger. We both left the company and decided to work abroad instead. We are now working here in South America, away from our respective families, enjoying each day we are together.

I do not know how long this will last. But I really hope it does. I love him so much and I do not think I can ever live without him.

Our project here will be finished in a few weeks. I will be transferred to another city, while he will be transferred to another country. Just the thought of our being separated again hurts so badly.

Is this love worth fighting for? Is there really hope for us? How can something that feels so good, be so wrong?

CHERRY

You asked how long "this" would last, and said you "really hope" it would. You followed it up by saying you did not think you "could ever live without him."

What are you really trying to say? Do you or do you not want to end this affair?

If you end this affair and go back to your respective spouses, be sure that there will be no pining, no regrets, no looking back.

You must focus on the road ahead and rebuild the lives you both abandoned six years ago.

However, if going back to your families will only bring you and your boyfriend misery and unhappiness and ultimately strengthen further your love for each other—then, that is worse than leaving those innocent people in the first place.

There is no use going back to your families when there is really nothing to go back to. Give both of your spouses a new lease on life—the freedom to find his/her own happiness, without you and your boyfriend hanging around.

It is unfair—it is unkind. Go and live the life you want together—forever and ever—and make a clean breast of everything.

Do it if the two of you feel that way—truly and sincerely.

Enough already of this guilt-tripping. Face up to the truth—and... you know the rest.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Visit www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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GRAND Ballroom of the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu

Debutante's ball in Cebu

THE CEBU GRAND DEBUTANTE'S BALL, envisioned to be city's most dazzling social event, will be held on Oct. 20, at the Grand Ballroom of Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, the premier luxury destination in the Queen City of the South.

Organized in cooperation with the Fashion Council of Cebu, the ball will introduce the most exquisite and beautiful debutantes in Cebu society, handpicked by dynamic designers Albert Arriba, Jun Escario, Arcy Gayatin, Oj Hofer, Philip Rodriguez, Cary Santiago, Felix Yu and Minnie Yuvienco.

Call (032) 2531111.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

T	O	L	L	S	■	A	N	A	H	E	I	M	C	A	■	P	A	R	I	S
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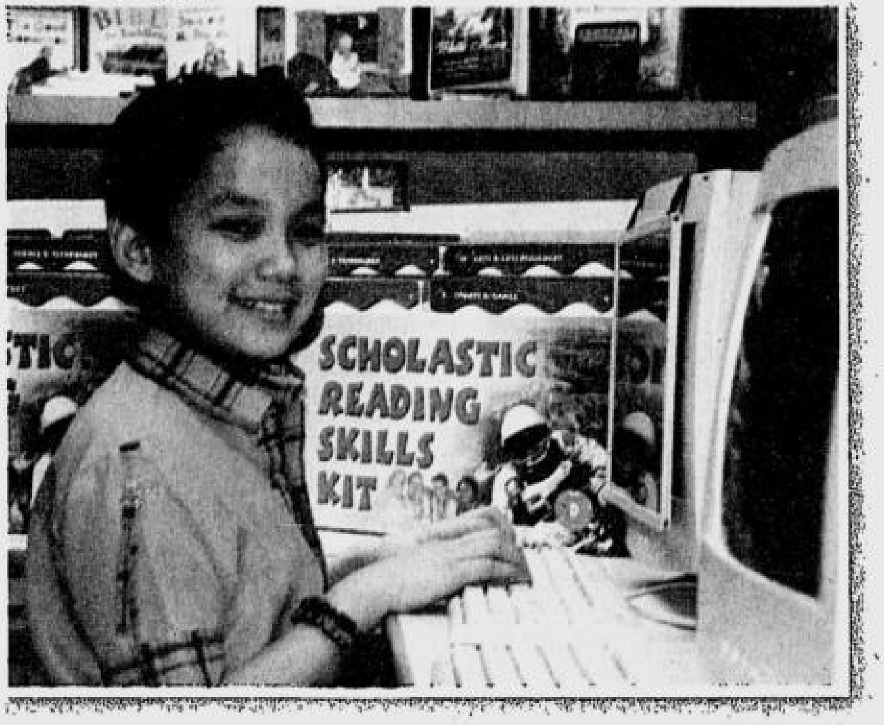
Making Children Love to Read - The Scholastic Way!

Children avoid books like a plague. Reading is such a pain for this new generation. They would rather play video games or watch cable TV the whole day. The alarming decline in literacy around the world has teachers and parents worried. But worry no more! Scholastic, the world's most trusted name in learning, offers a solution to beat out this apathy and get kids back to reading books!



A Classic and Familiar Case

Nine year old Jose absolutely hated reading –and the problem didn't end there. Rebellious and unruly, he disrupted classes and refused to do his homework. A string of tutors and coaches hadn't helped. It seemed that Jose's dislike of reading and school was intractable.

This is a typical story in today's classroom and homes. Teachers and parents find it difficult to encourage kids to read, thus they fail in school and become disciplinary problems.

But why are children not motivated to read? Reasons are, kids may be reading books that (1) do not match their ability to read, and (2) do not match their interest.

At her wit's end, Jose's mother, Melanie, decided to try the Scholastic Reading Counts! Program (SRC), a reading program that matches each child with books appropriate for his reading level and interests. When Jose was assessed in March using the program, his reading level was 330 Lexile. Armed with this knowledge, Melanie gave Jose books that matched his reading level and interests and scheduled daily twenty-minute reading sessions with him. After a month, Jose was looking forward to the reading sessions and was eagerly asking his mom for new books. When he was assessed again in May, his reading level had risen to 480 Lexile, and in August, Jose achieved an on-grade reading level of 810 Lexile. (Lexile is a scientific way of measuring every individual's reading level through a computer-adaptive technology in the program.)

Today, Jose has become a confident and enthusiastic reader. His school behavior and social skills have also improved. In the past, he disrupted classes because he could not follow the lessons. But now, he participates in class discussions, does his homework independently, and submits it on time.

The moral of the story? Kids can love reading and learning, as long as they have books that they can read and want to read. But how do we match each child to books that he wants to read and is capable of reading?

One size fits all?

School children may wear identical uniforms, but their personalities, abilities, and interests are far from the same. And yet, almost all schools impose a standard book for each grade level, regardless of each child's actual reading ability and interests. As Roselle Masirag, Program Manager of Scholastic Philippines says, "Traditionally, teachers do not have the tools to scientifically match the right books to each child. But now, through the Scholastic Reading Counts! program, they can have a way to match each child to the books that will help him become a better reader."

Knowing exactly what kids want

The Scholastic Reading Counts! Program (SRC), an in-school reading program, gives schools, parents, teachers, and children a scientific way to know what each child wants to read and is able to read. "First, we establish the children's reading levels. Second, we give them a list of appropriate books that match their actual reading levels. Third we motivate children to read their books that are within their interests," says Henry Chua, General Manager at Scholastic Philippines. The process of matching kids to books is facilitated by the Lexile system, which classifies texts according to reading difficulty, and ranks students' reading levels depending on their ability to read and comprehend texts. It applies the same measure on the reader and the book, thus creating a scientific match.

The Scholastic Reading Counts! program celebrates what the child knows and does not condemn what the child does not know. "We match his ability with books that he can successfully read, thus affirming him as a good reader." Mr. Chua explains.

Many parents believe that children should read only their school books, not recreational books (humor, fiction, sports, etc). However, studies show that children who read recreational books for at least 20 minutes a day perform better in school than children who read only textbooks. Mr. Chua adds, "Kids should be exposed to a range of genres, because that's where they develop their interests in life. Reading is important in life, not just for academic success."

To help kids progress to higher reading levels, Scholastic Reading Counts! (SRC) supplements the books/quizzes with Scholastic Reading Skills Kits, which help build children's mastery of reading comprehension strategies. The kits allow students to self-monitor and independently practice reading according to their level. By letting readers go at their own pace and chart their own progress, it helps children grow more and more confident as they experience reading success.

Partnership with families and schools

Although Scholastic Reading Counts! is an in-school program, it equally emphasizes the importance of involving parents in building their children's reading skills. "Most parents want to help their children, but may not have the tools or knowledge on how to do it. Scholastic Reading Counts! has a family literacy component where we advise parents on what books are appropriate for each age group. We also suggest activities to help make their homes literacy-rich." says Ms. Masirag. "Scholastic Reading Counts! encourages parents to be involved because teachers are going to provide them reports to update them on the progress of their children". And of course, teachers are a vital part of the program. "The program equips teachers with strategies and tools to help make teaching easier, more fun, and more effective," she explains. "We are with the teachers throughout the school year, providing training and monthly conferences to work closely with our school partners.

Reading is everybody's business

Making reading everybody's business: that's Scholastic's mission. "The company plans to reach as many parents through the schools, communities and malls, and hopefully through media as well, so that parents are more aware that their kids start early in reading.", Ms. Belen said. The company provides classroom materials and books of varied levels and genres to partner schools. "We want to partner with schools and make reading something creative, imaginative and exciting." she adds.*

How effective are your efforts to increase your child's reading achievement? Let's help each other. Contact us!

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SCHOLASTIC

A world of best buys at the one-stop home store

Home furnishings galore are up for grabs at SM Homeworld's storewide sale starting today until September 30. Savvy shoppers are invited to take advantage of the big savings and exciting deals lined up for the Home Sale.

A wide variety of items, including plasticware, glassware, kitchenware, linen, décor and furniture are pegged at up to 50% off, while others are offered at special prices.

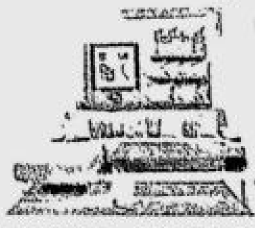
One-stop home shop Early bird shoppers visit SM Homeworld's flagship store in SM Makati.

So many more in store!

In addition to the September sale items, SM Homeworld showcases so many other choices that you can take home at amazingly affordable regular prices.

FURNITURE

top trends, latest looks

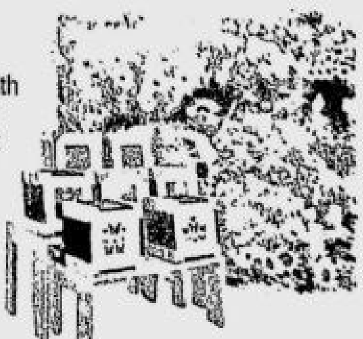


Go contemporary with the latest fabric and leather sofa collections. Accent tables, étagères and consoles in gleaming glass and chrome also abound.

DECOR

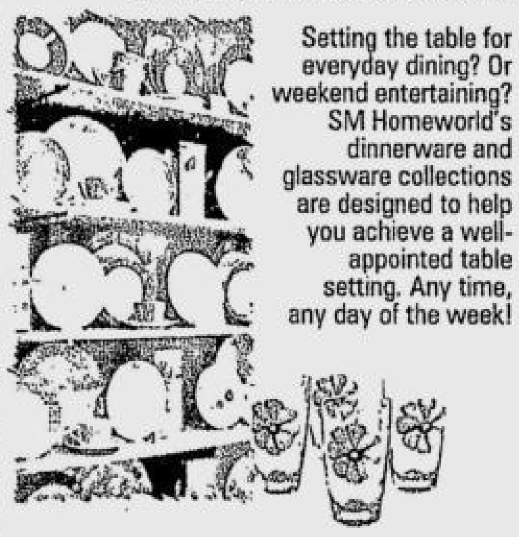
time for a new look

Style match your home decorating with good-looking choices that include wall and photo frames, and assorted flowers.



GLASSWARE

tableware for all occasions

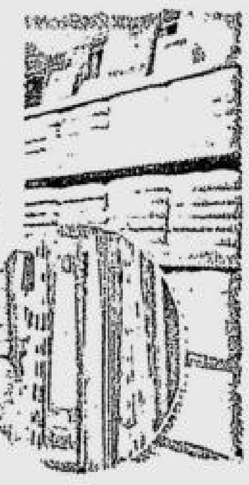


Setting the table for everyday dining? Or weekend entertaining? SM Homeworld's dinnerware and glassware collections are designed to help you achieve a well-appointed table setting. Any time, any day of the week!

LINEN

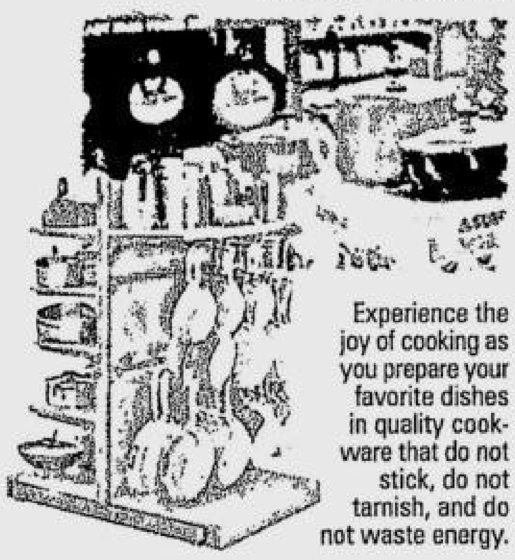
inspired buys for bath sanctuaries

Stock up on great-looking bath essentials. SM Homeworld's Linen Section showcases an impressive collection of towels in white, pastels, printed and solids. Complete your motif with matching shower curtains.



KITCHENWARE

efficient cookery essentials for the home chef



Experience the joy of cooking as you prepare your favorite dishes in quality cookware that do not stick, do not tarnish, and do not waste energy.

PLASTICWARE

big ideas for small spaces

Enjoy huge savings and extra values on great selections of food-keepers, storage boxes and organizers.

Christmas is just around the corner

... and September is the perfect time to start giving your home that festive seasonal update.

Get a headstart on your holiday decorating. Visit SM Homeworld for the latest trends and hottest buys.

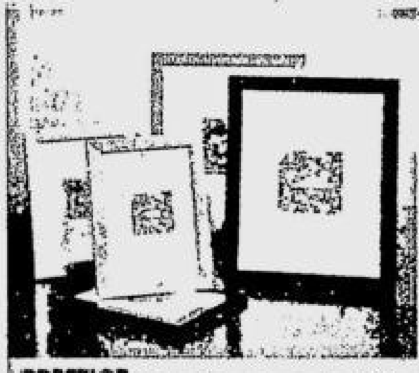
And, with the store's September sale event just beginning, go ahead and stock up on everyday essentials, particularly those tagged at low, low price breaks.

HOME WORLD
Your one-stop home shop

home sale

now thru september 30

as much as 50% OFF on great selections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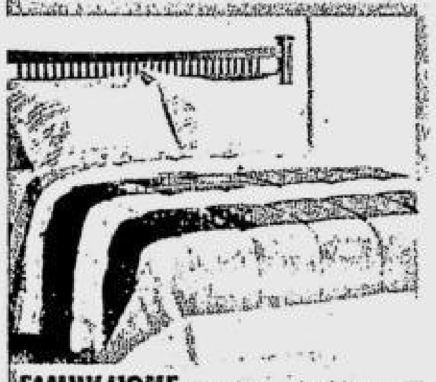
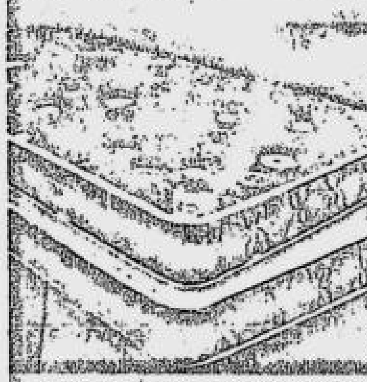

FAMILY HOME 4-pc queen bedding sets
NOW P1,500.00 Before P2,999.75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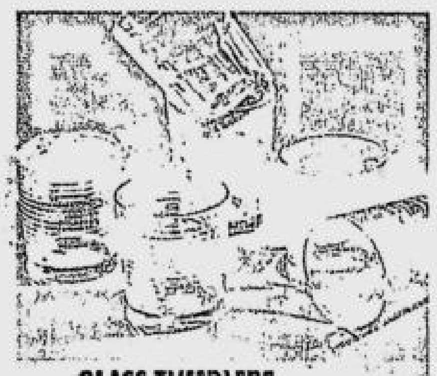
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soup plate NOW P195 Before P279.75
Available in selected branches

EAGLE
7-pc dining set in dark wood finish
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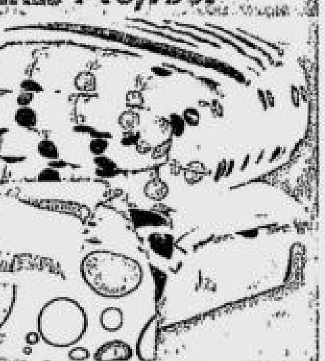
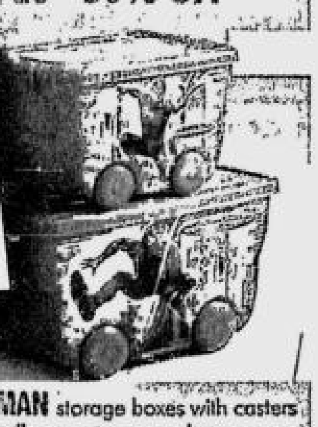

ULTIMA comforters
20 - 50% OFF

CIELO*
3-pc upholstered living room set
(3-seater sofa / 2 armchairs)
SPECIALS P7,995.00
*center table & props not included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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0810 Series of 2007

THOUGH music is his passion, Ramos appreciates the occasional silence and does not even listen to anything while driving.

DJ's Zen retreat

Though almost a fixture in the club scene, Anton Ramos retreats to his sanctuary when not playing music to partyphiles

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

UPON BUYING HIS FIRST music album when he was 12 years old, Anton Ramos was hooked. Disco was the rage and so his collection was filled with the dance music of the era.

By the time he was in high school, he was doing the party scene not as a reveler but as the guy playing the music the crowd could dance to.

Early on, he says, his father told him to "find your passion." Some 20 years and about 5,000 titles later—give or take a few CDs—the passion has not cooled but burns as hot and bright as ever.

He has come full circle, collecting and playing dance music once again as he does gigs as a disc jockey for one of the hottest clubs in town at least one day a week. Friends also occasionally invite him to do his music-mixing magic out of town.

Not surprisingly, he is in charge of the family's music-store chain.

This all-encompassing love for music even dictates Ramos' itinerary when he travels. The exotic destinations far from the madding crowd are not for the 30-something Ramos. He would rather go to more cosmopolitan destinations because he likes "to shop."

But you will not find him checking out the latest fashion for men. Rather he haunts music stores searching for his kind of music. These days that means electronica, for this former radio DJ turned club DJ.

Stock trader

But if you think Ramos' life is one big party, a night of bar-hopping fusing into another evening of merrymaking, his day job should tell you otherwise. Away from the club scene, he has one of what many people consider as a very staid occupation.

Ramos is a licensed stockbroker, lugging his reliable laptop everywhere he goes so he can keep track of the action at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

His three-bedroom flat reflects his need for silence after nights of "storm." Ramos says, "Quiet moments are very important" so with the help of stylist Rachy Cuna, a family friend, he has created a Zen sanctuary for himself—quiet, neat, contemporary, uncluttered and very low-key—not at all the kind you would expect from someone who is a regular in the party circuit.

But Ramos says he is actually a homebody when not donning his DJ hat. Disc jockeying is all about music, not the party scene. "Music defines what I do," and doing the club scene is simply an opportunity to play his kind of music and share his favorite sounds with other people.

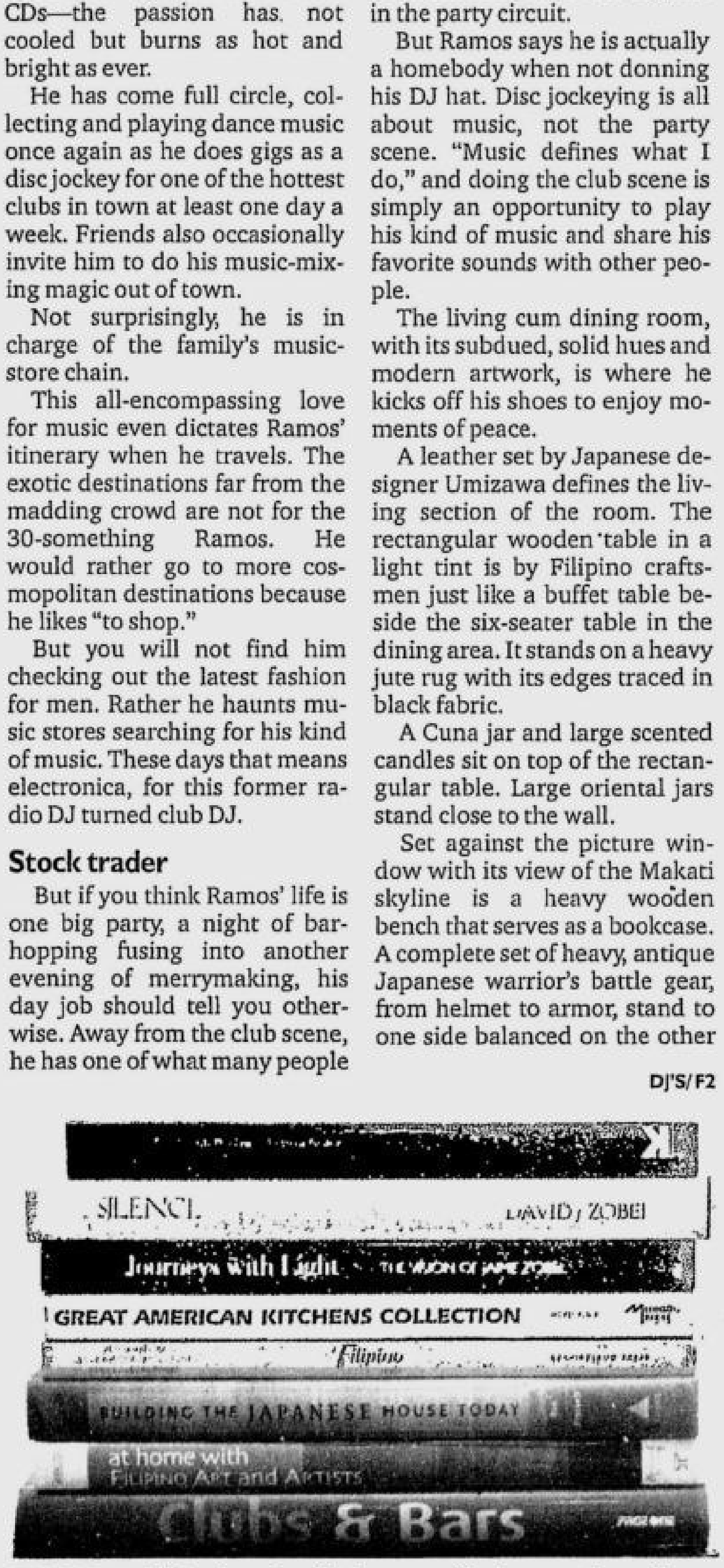
The living cum dining room, with its subdued, solid hues and modern artwork, is where he kicks off his shoes to enjoy moments of peace.

A leather set by Japanese designer Umizawa defines the living section of the room. The rectangular wooden table in a light tint is by Filipino craftsmen just like a buffet table beside the six-seater table in the dining area. It stands on a heavy jute rug with its edges traced in black fabric.

A Cuna jar and large scented candles sit on top of the rectangular table. Large oriental jars stand close to the wall.

Set against the picture window with its view of the Makati skyline is a heavy wooden bench that serves as a bookcase. A complete set of heavy, antique Japanese warrior's battle gear, from helmet to armor, stand to one side balanced on the other

DJ'S/F2



RAMOS says his books reflect his interests, like home and graphic design.

A JAPANESE warrior's full regalia has pride of place.

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WORKS by an unknown artist adorn a kitchen wall.

A JAPANESE warrior's outfit from headgear to armor is a guaranteed conversation piece among dinner guests.

FRAMED set of photographs by Jaime Zobel de Ayala

DJ's Zen retreat

From page F1

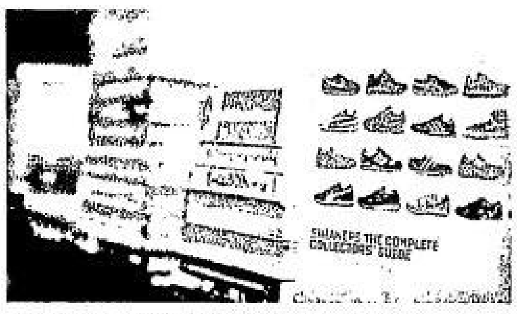
side by a samurai.

The books arrayed on the bench, he says, reflect his interests—graphic arts, home and architecture, records, and rubber shoes. The design books are to help him conceptualize the covers for his own albums—nine of them so far for a series called the "Chill-out Project."

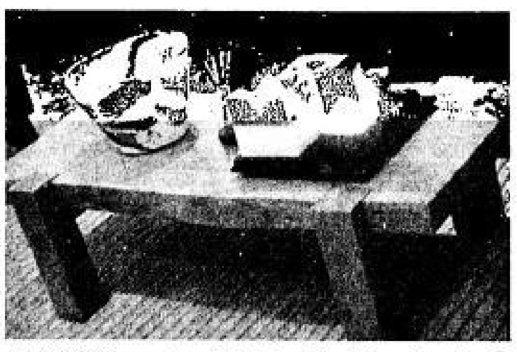
Hoarder

Though he says "I can't stand clutter," Ramos readily admits being a "hoarder" like his father. So several pairs from his extensive collection of running shoes, though not as large as his hoard of discs and vinyl albums, are carefully hidden behind a double-door closet. The others are in his parents' house.

He is also starting a collection of watches. So far, he has a Rolex inherited from his grandfather, Panerai, Audemar Piguet and Bulgari, among others.

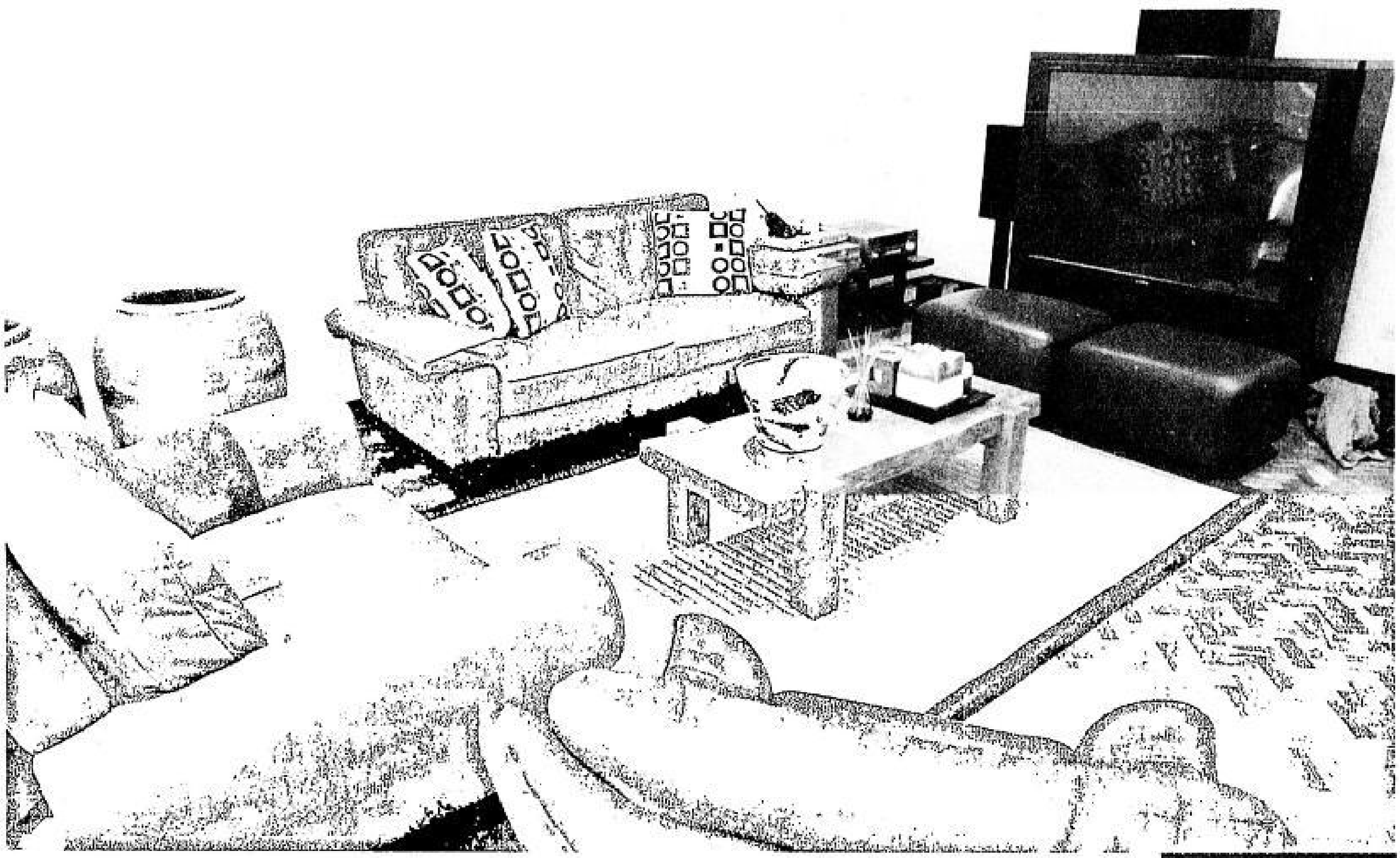


A BOOK on sneakers is a giveaway of Ramos' other major collection, rubber shoes.



A HEAVY wooden table holds a Zen-inspired Cuna jar and large candles.

RAMOS mixes his CDs with his own recording equipment and edits them in a laptop.



LAO Lianben's almost completely white paintings set off the metallic gray of the living room set by Japanese designer Umizawa.

His choice of paintings, though modern, is not the in-your-face kind of work that some contemporary artists favor but features gentle strokes that help achieve the Zen atmosphere of his home. A series by Lao Lianben on the wall behind the sofa is almost pristine white, with just the slightest touches—sometimes hardly discernible—of color.

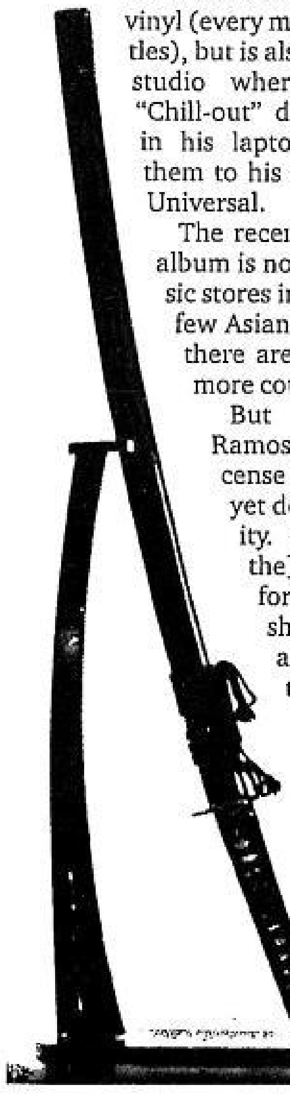
Setting off the dark wood of the dining table are two large Zen paintings by Cuna in red, black and white. Arrayed against the wall of the corridor leading to the bedrooms are works by Ivan Acuña while a Gus Albor piece leads the way to Ramos' bedroom.

Even the kitchen is adorned by a set of paintings by an unknown artist while a stylized photograph by Jaime Zobel de Ayala is positioned right next to the door.

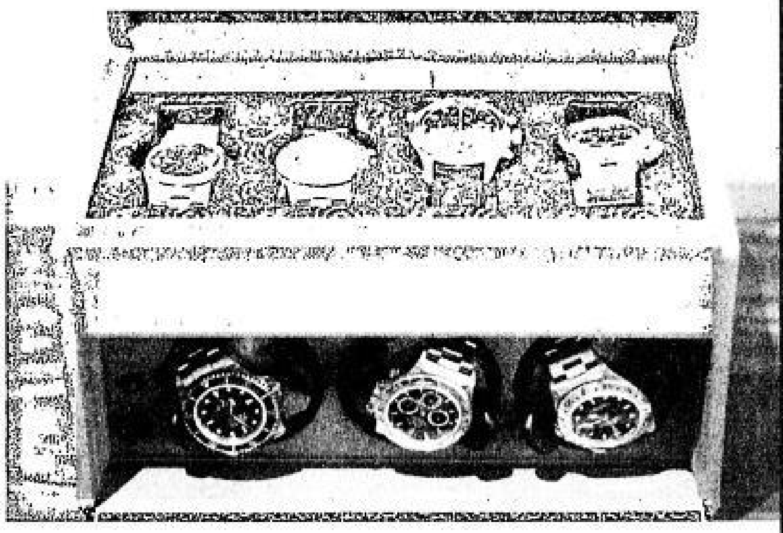
Despite the calm air of the living/dining room, music remains integral to Ramos' home. One of the bedrooms not only holds his collection of CDs and vinyl (every month brings new titles), but is also a mini recording studio where he mixes his "Chill-out" discs, editing them in his laptop before sending them to his record label, MCA Universal.

The recently released ninth album is now available in music stores in the country and a few Asian cities. Ramos says there are plans to sell it in more countries.

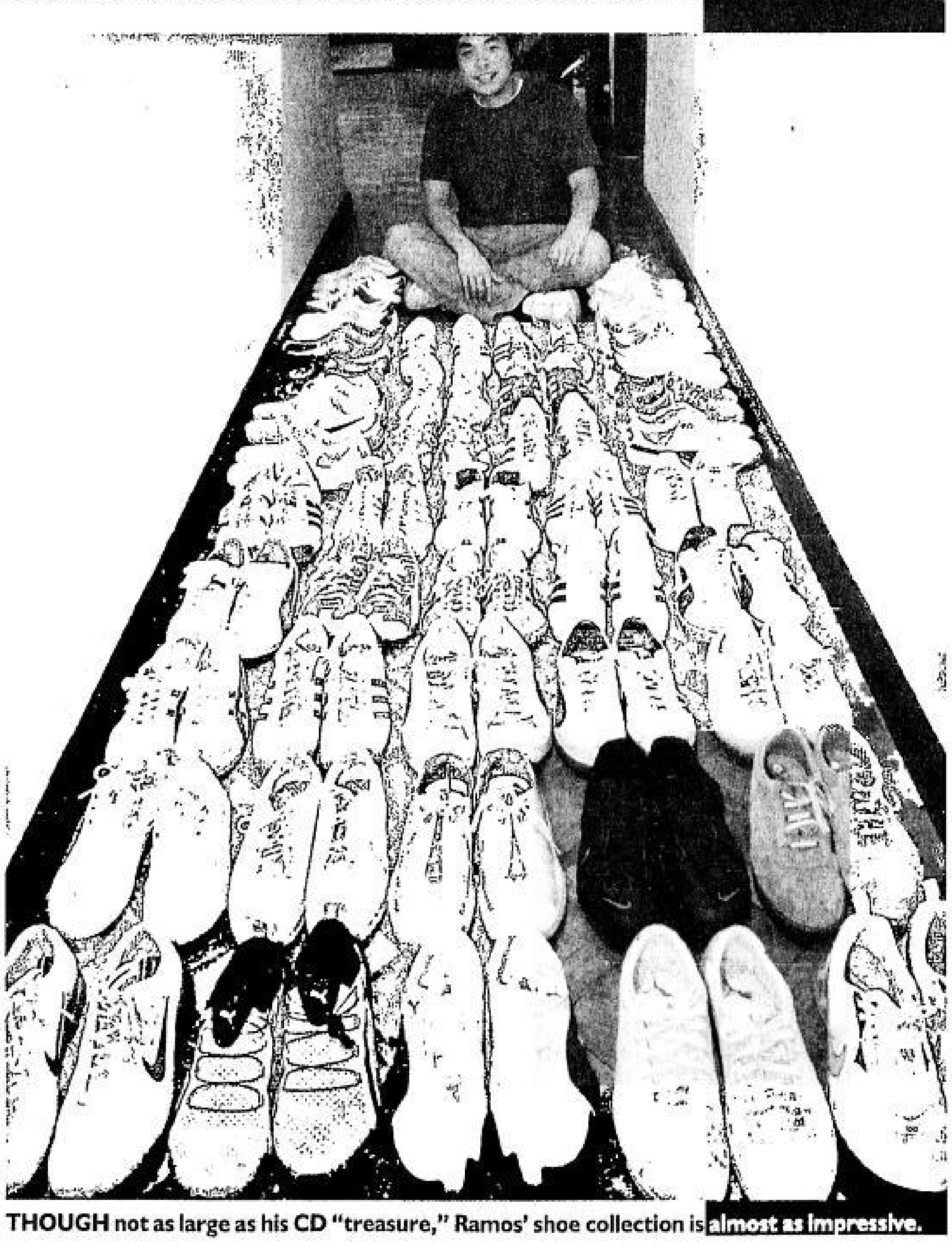
But do not expect Ramos to give up his license as stockbroker just yet despite this possibility. "[What I earn in the] stock market pays for the armors, the shoes, the watches" and needless to say the music albums.



A JAPANESE samurai



STARTING to grow is a collection of watches.



THOUGH not as large as his CD "treasure," Ramos' shoe collection is almost as impressive.

Beyond the usual home pieces

By Sheila B. Romero
Contributor

I WAS RECENTLY IN San Francisco for our annual family vacation. Whenever I'm there, aside from shopping at the Union Square area, I love going around the quaint streets of downtown Hayes Valley to discover new boutiques and stores that might have come up during the year, and to rediscover old haunts as well.

One store that never ceases to amaze me is Propeller, a furniture store that supports local artists. Its up-and-coming designer is named Derek Chen. I had heard of him from interior designer friends in the Bay Area, so I just had to go and see for myself.

AEGEAN vase

The products that I saw confirmed that his designs were indeed modern and unique, and convinced me that Manila should be the first in Asia to learn about Derek Chen.

I wanted to interview three emerging San Francisco artists—a furniture/home accessories maker, a painter and a potter—but it was not easy to set up these meetings because of our schedules. Fortunately, I was able to talk to Chen.

I was happy to have along with me my daughter Milka, who looked like a professional photographer the day we toured Chen's factory.

Sleek yet natural

Born in China and raised in Michigan, Chen is an Electrical Engineering graduate who worked as a management consultant for more than a decade. He then jumped onto the dot-com bandwagon, and as with most dot-com businesses in 2001, that phase of his life quickly ended.

Left with a lot of time in his hands, Chen immersed himself in his hobby of designing and creating things.

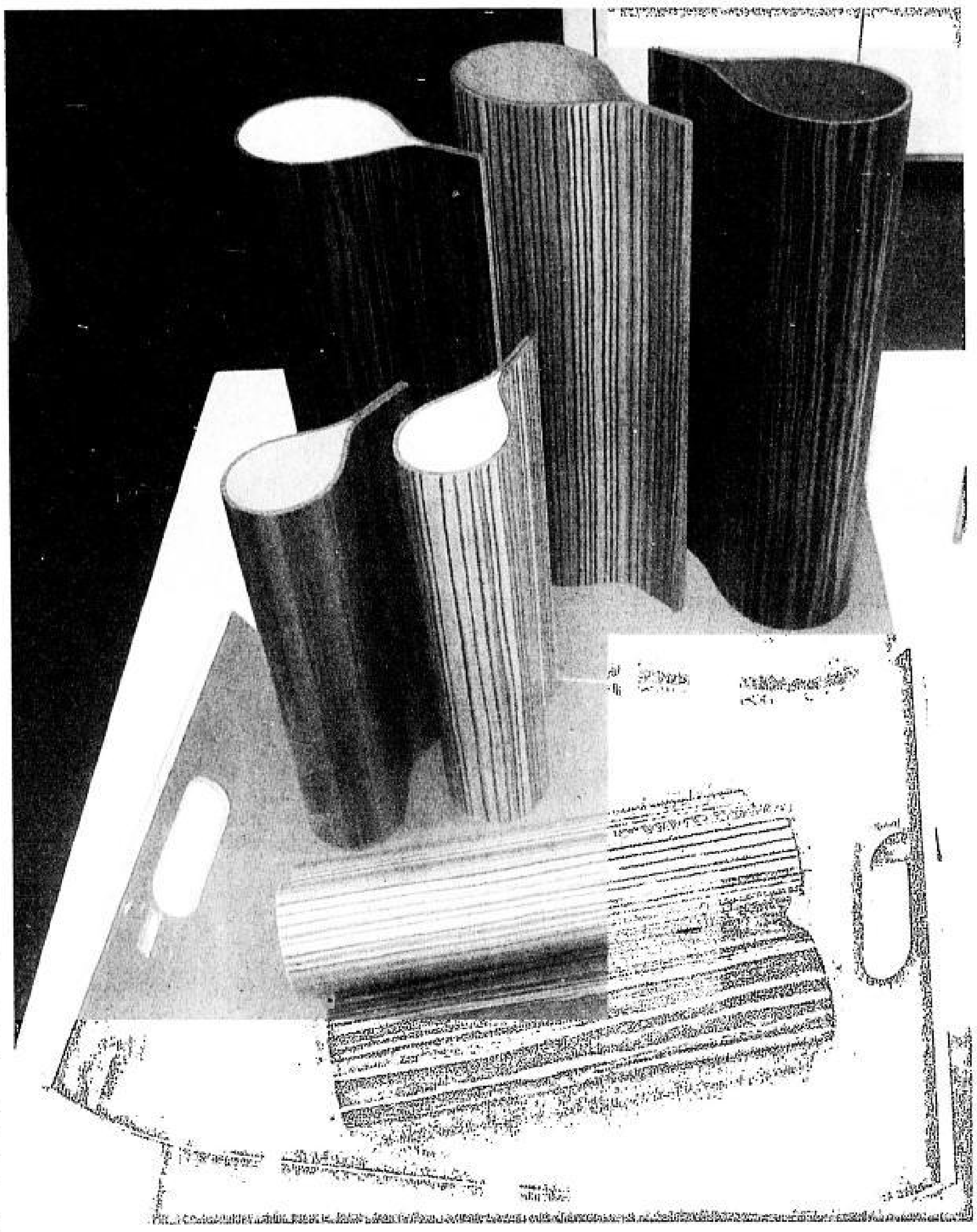
Today, almost five years after he put up his studio, Urbana, his pieces may be found in homes in different cities in the US and other parts of the world.

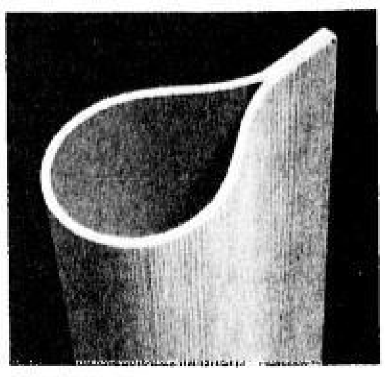
Lifestyle magazines like Wallpaper, Breathe and In Style in the US have reviewed his famous Bent plywood trays and waterproof Teardrop resin vases. Both pieces are a product of a marriage of materials—specifically, wood and resin. The result is a very sleek yet natural look.

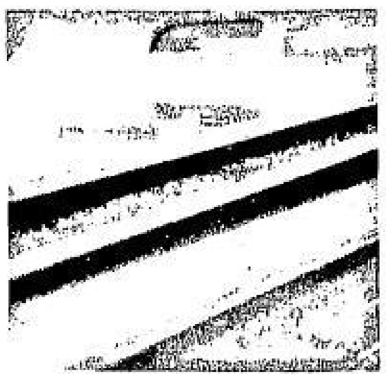
Chen showed me the carcasses of the new furniture line that he was preparing for an upcoming New York launch.

His furniture's lightness in appearance defies their actual strength and durability, a testament to his engineering background.

We compared notes on the pains of furniture production and the reality of striking a compromise between your dream design and the imperatives of business.


HAND-MADE, stunning and costly Derek Chen vases and trays


TEARDROP vase


BENTWOOD trays

"A person has to make his living too, right?" he said. He agreed that the difficult part was trying to make the product click in your market.

American voice

The early stages in the design field are always daunting and not for the faint of heart.

Chen observed that the Europeans have been very aggressive and productive in the field of modern design. Italian and French brand names are easily mentioned when modern furniture and design are discussed.

Council, an association which Chen founded, aims to bring an American voice to the design field, reminiscent of Henry Miller, Knoll and Vitra.

As the name implies, "there is collaboration at play," said Chen. "I have developed many relationships with different designers at Urbana designs that gave rise to Council. My goal is to produce furniture at a commercial level to be able to compete with the international market."

DEREK Chen

Along with fellow designers from San Francisco and two other distinct designers from Europe, he put together an inaugural collection which was recently viewed at two international furniture fairs.

In April the collection debuted in Milan, Italy, at the famous Salone del Mobile 2007. It was also shown at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York City.

Council aims to create curated lines of distinctive pieces that fit together for each room of the house.

Long process

I was awed by the long process it took to hand-make Chen's products.

"That's why my items can be very costly. You can produce just a small quantity for a period of time," said Chen.

The Teardrop vase is fully waterproof and is made of veneered plywood in zebrano, macassar ebony, douglas fir or walnut. Bent in the shape of a teardrop, it is sealed, weighted with opaque colored resin and finished with a satin lacquer. The vase is available in three sizes and six wood veneers.

On the other hand, the Bentwood tray is made of high-gloss clear resin over graphic print or woven fabric. It is available in nine colors.

Both the Teardrop vase and the Bentwood tray are now available in different colors at Beyond Bamboo, a lifestyle store located at the Doña Consolacion Building 122 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati City.

The author is co-owner of Beyond Bamboo (tels. 8908191 and 8907680). Visit www.beyondbamboo.com. Email bbeyondbamboo@yahoo.com.

THE AUTHOR interviewing West Coast designer Derek Chen

PSID pays tribute to Filipino furniture makers in "F3"

THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF Interior Design (PSID) Advanced Class of 2007 will mount its graduation exhibit titled "Forty, Filipino, and Fabulous" ("F3") on Sept. 29-Oct. 31, at the Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

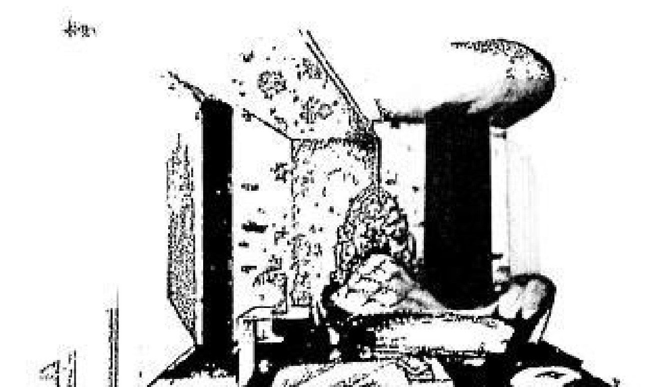
Mounted in cooperation with the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), "F3" also celebrates PSID's 40th anniversary with an exhibit showcasing Philippine furniture integrated into masterfully-designed and executed interior spaces.

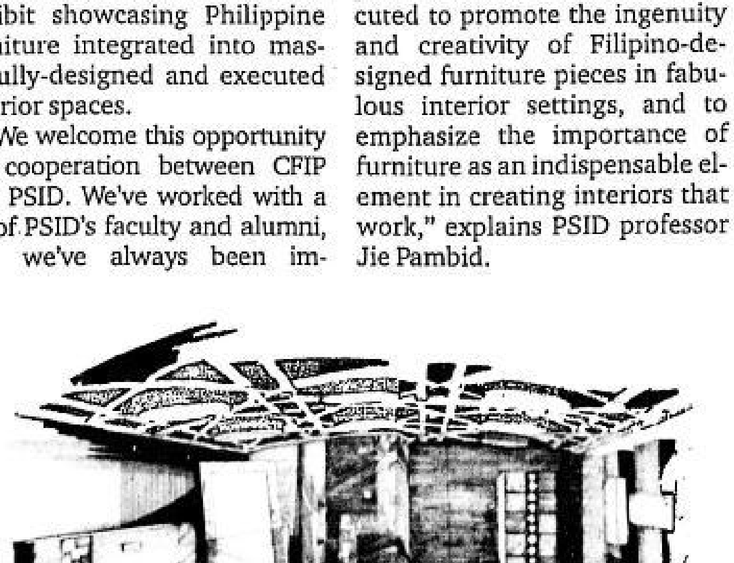
"We welcome this opportunity for cooperation between CFIP and PSID. We've worked with a lot of PSID's faculty and alumni, and we've always been impressed with their talent and professionalism," says Joy Cancio, CFIP vice president for Chamber Development. "With this exhibit, we look forward to the students' designs as they promote Filipino furniture. We hope this will inspire students to explore furniture design as well."

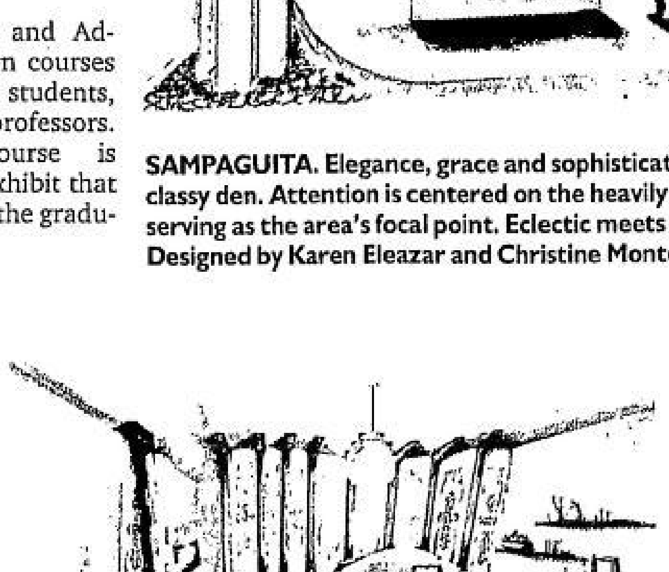
"We are celebrating the union of CFIP and PSID with a breakthrough interior design exhibit. All 19 booths are carefully planned, researched and executed to promote the ingenuity and creativity of Filipino-designed furniture pieces in fabulous interior settings, and to emphasize the importance of furniture as an indispensable element in creating interiors that work," explains PSID professor Jie Pambid.

PSID is the country's premiere institution in interior design education, established in 1967 by Engr. Augustine Cancio and Herminia Cancio-Layug, with the curriculum conceptualized by interior designer Edith Oliveros, Arch. Lor Calma and National Artist Napoleon Abueva. Since then, PSID has produced a number of successful practitioners and has been consistent in topping the local board examinations for interior design.

PSID offers Basic and Advanced Interior design courses to around 350-420 students, with a pool of 25-32 professors. The Advanced Course is marked by a major exhibit that serves as the thesis of the graduating batch.


SAMPAGUITA. Elegance, grace and sophistication best describe this classy den. Attention is centered on the heavily carved daybed serving as the area's focal point. Eclectic meets modern baroque. Designed by Karen Eleazar and Christine Monteverde.


SALAPID. A modern Filipino couple's sanctuary, featuring a modern interpretation of the *sulihiya* and its deliberate juxtaposition with contemporary elements. Designed by Jean Gil, Kaye Llanto, Jose Soriano and Maybs Uy.


LILOK. An indoor paradise with a uniquely Filipino look. Featuring featured Maranaw-inspired louvers, frosted glass, and a specially designed abaca mesh warped sofa with tribal-inspired coffee table. Designed by Karen Baltazar, Tin Sta. Ana and Glenn Vitor.

National bonsai exhibit Oct. 12-21

THE 4TH NATIONAL Bonsai Open Exhibition will hold a series of fun-filled activities Oct. 12-21 at the Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

The event will include plant and garden bazaar at the Araneta Coliseum Parking Area. Bonsai lectures and demonstrations by foreign masters and local artists, kiddie bonsai workshop and other basic and advanced workshops will be held at the Activity Area of Gateway Mall.

Bonsai, originally developed by the Chinese in 200 AD for medicinal purposes, refers to the miniaturization of trees.

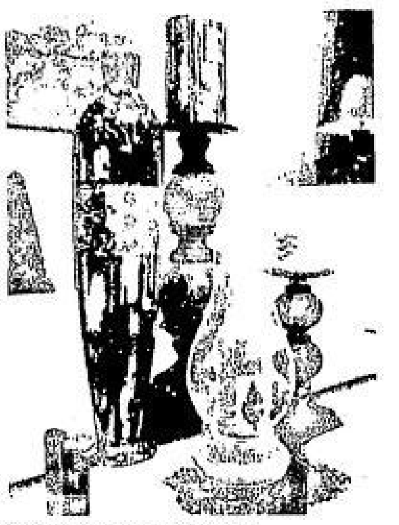
The agreement for the National Bonsai Open was signed by PBSI's Bobby Gopiao, president; Mike Morden, vice-president; and Dr. Emer Cruz, director. Signing for the Araneta Center Inc. were Rene dela Cruz, chief operating officer, and Ed Tejerero, senior vice president for leasing.

Top creative minds want to get inside your house

Designer labels for your home

"THE bedroom should be a place for relaxation and should reflect your personal taste and style," says Rajo Laurel.

BLACK urn-shaped crystal vases arranged in a row



GLAZED ceramic vase candelabra and colored resin candle holder

OUR HOME, THE LIFESTYLE store that offers great prices, has selected lines designed by some of the country's top interior and fashion designers.

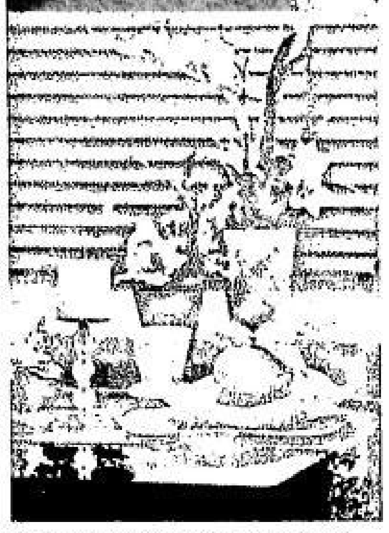
Tito Villanueva, Adel Amasco, and Dan Lichauco designed furniture and décor pieces for modern spaces, while fashion designer Rajo Laurel adds his creative touch to his bed linen lines.

Villanueva showcases his Trent Collection for Our Home. He designed "a sectional sofa with relaxed slanted back cushions and an extended chaise lounge that you can convert into different looks by breaking up the pieces of the sofa making every angle an attractive one."

He said "a well-upholstered sofa makes a strong visual statement. It is the easiest form of good interior design."

Although her background is in garment and trading, has ventured into Exotic Interior Blooms for Our Home—sampaguita, potted orchids and succulents.

She said there was no need to change all the furniture in a room for a fresh, new look. A change in color and accessories can achieve the same effect.



DECORATIVE plates and bowl made from recycled glass

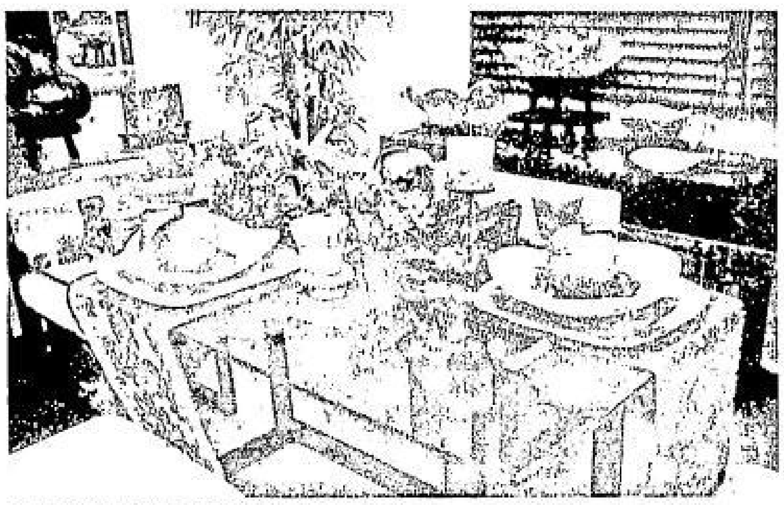
Laurel's designer linens showcase the great sense of style he learned at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and the Central St. Martin's School in London, and from dressing up some of Manila's most elegant women.

He has six bed linen collections exclusively for Our Home—all inspired by his love of travel and graphic lines. These are Autobon, The Strip, Emerald, Catwalk, Mirage, and La Croix, all in 4-6-piece sets using 300 thread count and 100 percent cotton fabric.

Lichauco's has two furniture collections for Our Home, Frank and Fonteyn. The Frank collection consists of minimalist sofas with a deep brown wood base and fabric padded cushions in neutral beige, rich gold, and refreshing green. These are three-seater and two-seater sofas with center and side tables.

The Fonteyn Collection is dynamic and versatile, movable furniture with multifunctional designs—a dining table that can be converted into a center table, a daybed that becomes a study desk, etc.

Our Home stores are at SM Megamall, Fairview, Southmall, V-Mall, the Block at North-EDSA, Mall of Asia, Bacoor, Sta. Rosa, Baguio, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, Marilao, Dasmariñas, Batangas, Iloilo, and Cagayan de Oro.



STRESS-FREE DINING, courtesy of orange and rust colors that infuse the room with warmth and energy

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- **Disgruntled show biz newbies rush back home** Rushes /G6

Hopeless romantic

By Pocholo Concepcion

PIOLO PASCUAL IS A HOPELESS ROMANTIC—in his own words, "a sucker for love stories."

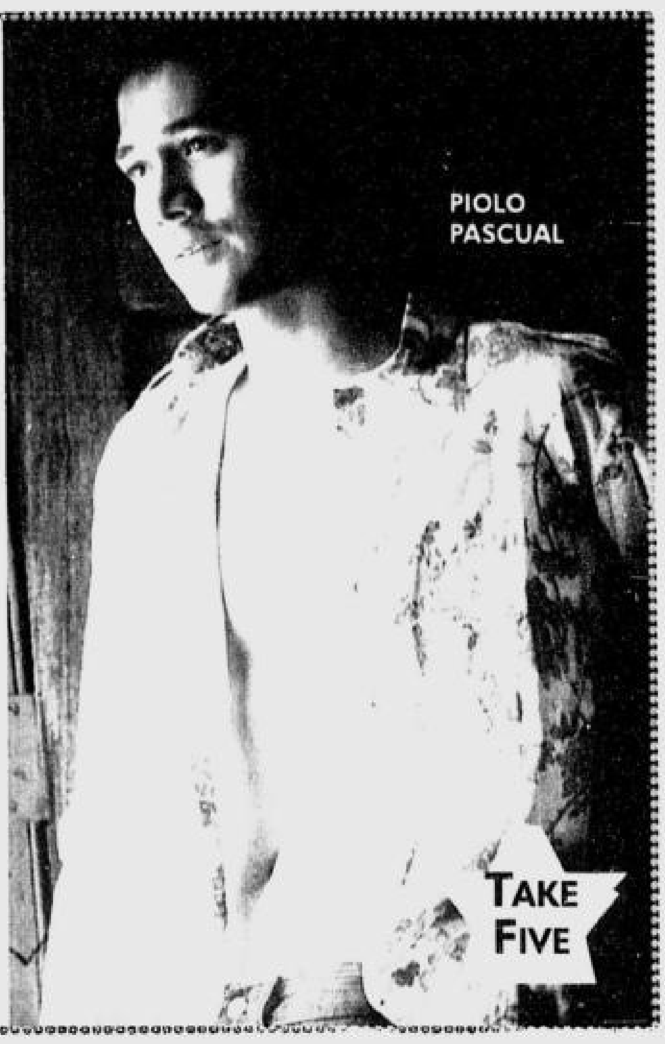
The brown-eyed mestizo, the biggest male talent in the ABS-CBN stable, is discussing why he thinks he has also achieved success as a pop balladeer.

"I can't stay away from ballads," Piolo says. *"Du'n ako nakilala."*

A gaggle of entertainment writers surround him as he starts explaining the making of his latest album, "Timeless" (Star Records). For the first time, Piolo tries his hand at writing lyrics and assumes greater responsibility as album co-producer.

Work on "Timeless" took two months, with many hours consumed on recording his vocals. Piolo talks with pride about two songs he wrote, "There for Me" and "Why Can't We Be Together"—the former dedicated to Winnie Mariano, a hardworking TV crew

HOPELESS/ G2



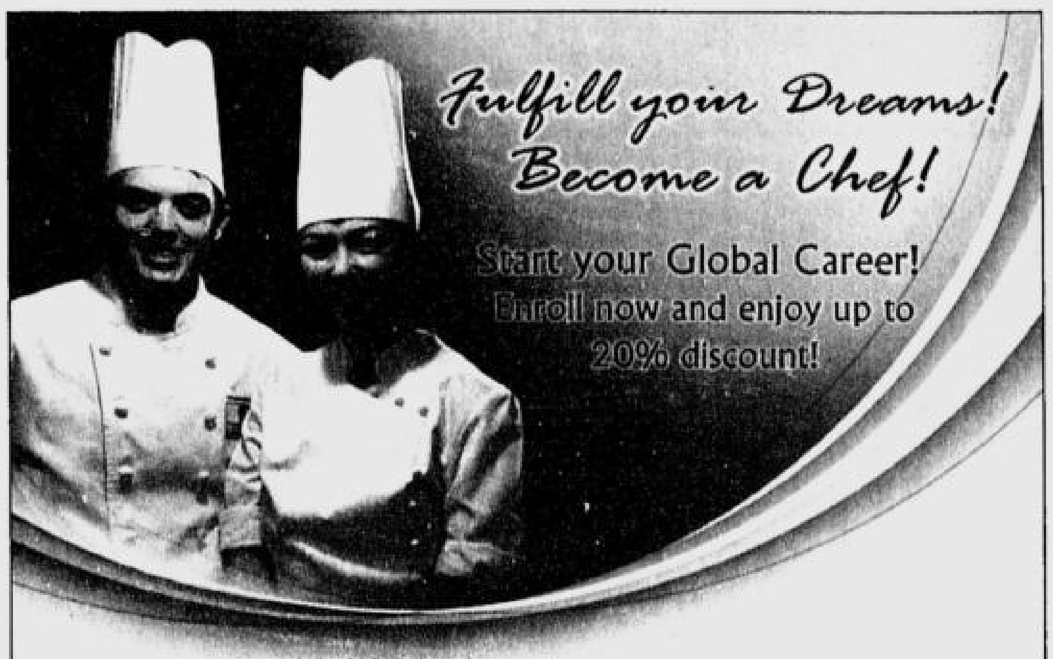
'Donsol' is 2008 Oscar bet

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE FILM ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES (FAP) has chosen the independent film "Donsol," by Adolf Alix, as Philippine entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 80th Academy Awards set in January next year.

A six-member selection committee chose the Bicycle Pictures' movie over Brillante Mendoza's "Foster Child" and Pablo Biglang-Awa and Veronica Velasco's "Inang Yaya"—accord-

DONSOL/ G2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ANGEL Locsin and Sid Lucero

'Donsol' is 2008 Oscar bet

From page G1

ing to director Pablo Gomez of the selection committee.

"We are hoping that a story on whale sharks would impress American viewers," Gomez told INQUIRER Entertainment.

"I never thought it would go this far," said "Donsol" director Adolfo Alix, 27, who is now working on two feature films—"Tambolista" and "Batanes."

"Donsol," which stars Sid Lucero, is a finalist of the 2006 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. It won the Best Cinematography Award and the Best Actress Award for Angel Aquino.

So you want to make a hit movie?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOST FILMMAKERS DREAM OF producing, writing and directing a hit film, a movie that gets critical raves *and* sets a new record at the box office. Alas, only a precious few achieve that vaunted dream, and many more end up with smelly flops on their hands, and empty movie houses for their pains.

Why can't hit movies be produced with greater certainty? What makes a hit movie?

A mouthful

WE once posed this naive question to veteran Lea Productions head Aling **Toreng Santos.** With great patience and tolerance, she sighed, "*Ay naku, iho*, if I knew the secret, I'd be a billionaire by now!"

Well, we deserved that kind but curt reply. Unfazed, however, we asked other movie people for tips—and got a mouthful:

Since film is a mass medium, the biggest hits are made by productions that appeal to the greatest sector of the movie audience.

In the Philippines, demographics inform us that the country's population is primarily young. So, movies for kid, teen and family viewers have a better chance to make it big at the tills.

Major factor

EMPATHY is another major factor. Not only should you aim your movie at the biggest viewing sector, you also have to make sure there's something in your story and its principal character viewers can empathize with.

That sounds easy, but it isn't. To generate great empathy, you've got to fully understand what makes your target audience tick—what it wants, what it needs, what it dreams of, what its elemental priorities are.

Difficult objective

AS ANY psychologist will tell you, that's a difficult objective to achieve. And, ironically, that dodgy journey starts with knowing yourself first because you're the one generating the material that others are supposed to find meaningful, inspiring, entertaining and deeply empathetic.

Well, no wonder few hit films are being made. With heavy requirements like those, only a few can pass muster.

Then, there's the question of film type: Will your story turn out to be a drama, comedy, fantasy, action, sci-fi, horror—or, as quite often happens locally, Pinoy *halo-halo*?

Sounds logical

THAT'S because some local producers want to play it safe and give *everybody* something in their movie to like. That sounds logical, but experience tells us that it can make your movie a big, unfocused mess, so watch it. You can be too "logical" for your own good.

It's really better to make your film's type clear, so that viewers will know what they're in for. Truth in advertising? You got it.

Speaking of advertising, you have to face the expensive fact that most hit movies are products of *saturation* promotions, which include hugely pricey TV spots. So, after finding money to make your film, you have to get your hands on even more money to promote it.

Star value

FINALLY, you also have to face the fact that most local hits bank on strong "star value," which is similarly expensive. That is, if you can even succeed in securing the services of bankable stars, whose work schedules are all filled up until 2009.

Fortunately, there are the wonderful exceptions. For instance, "Tanging Yaman" had modest star value, but it made a mint. Attribute that to its heartfelt and inspiring story about a fractured family.

Battle-tested

WHAT about "Tanging Ina"? The **Ai-Ai delas Alas** starrer also broke the bank, without costing an arm and a leg. Instructively, however, its star-director tandem tried to repeat its phenomenal showing with a follow-up project—that didn't set the box office on fire again.

So, that takes us back to where we started—with dear Aling Toreng Santos and her pithy words of battle-tested wisdom: "If I knew the answer, I'd be a billionaire by now!"

Hopeless...

From page G1

member; the latter about someone whose identity Piolo would rather keep secret.

The writers tease him for clues, but he won't budge. A veteran columnist makes a wild guess: Does her name start with the letter J?

"*Hindi po,*" Piolo replies.

"How about the letter R?"

Piolo doesn't say a word.

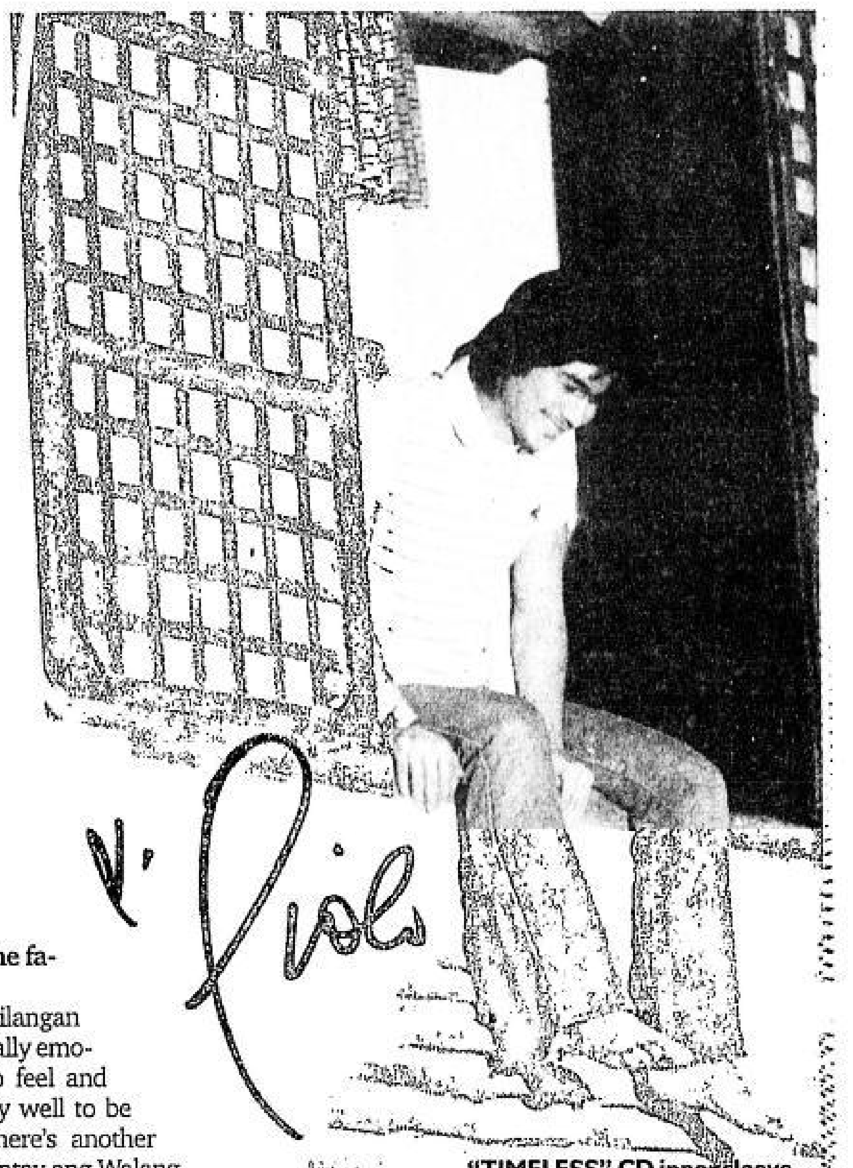
The teasing escalates, and the press concludes it's probably Rica Peralejo.

At 30, Piolo insists he's unattached. He has a 10-year-old kid, Iñigo, from a past relationship, but looks forward to getting married five years from now. His idea of romantic moments is nothing grand. Just being able to walk in the mall and hold hands with his beloved is enough, he says.

Here's a guy, drop-dead gorgeous and mild-mannered, who can't find a mate because work gets in the way.

So for now, Piolo contends himself with expressing all his notions about romance through ballads, loads of it, in his new CD.

> Here's a drop-dead gorgeous guy who can't find a mate, as work gets in the way



"TIMELESS" CD inner sleeve

What did you do, exactly, as co-producer of your album?

This is the first time in my five years with Star Records that I had a free hand in choosing the songs and who to work with, like Jonathan Manalo who is my co-producer. He produced two songs ("Walang Kapalit" and "Ikaw Lamang") that I had previously recorded. I insisted on working with him again, and also for these two songs to be included in the album. I wrote lyrics for two new songs with Jonathan providing the melody. In the studio I was really *kulit*, a perfectionist. In my past albums, the average recording time was two hours per song. For this one, there were tracks that I had to go back for three or four times, to do some curing. It took me an average of five hours per song. And I would even come back the next day to listen to it over and over. If I heard something *na hindi ako* comfortable, I'd record it again. I invested that much time in the album 'cause I wanted something *na hindi mo na iisipin na may kulang pa.*

The album is all ballads.

Ballads are timeless. My vocal range is for love songs and my genre is pop-rock. I cannot do jazz.

How does one ballad stand out from the others?

It has to be full of emotions, crisp lyrics, you know, something so emotional that, when you sing it, people would know it's not just a song—but there's a story in it.

What's your all-time favorite ballad?

It has to be "Kailangan Kita" because it's really emotional. You have to feel and know the song very well to be able to sing it. There's another one, "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan" by Jun Polistico, which was my first exposure to good ballads.

Do you listen to other types of music to suit your different moods?

I listen to everything. I listen to classical music like Beethoven when I'm trying to motivate myself, to get into the mood when I'm acting. Also Josh Groban, Bocelli. Once in a while, when I want to relax at night, I play meditative music, New Age and Zen-type.

Who's your top musical idol?

I've always been a fan of U2 because its music withstands time. My favorite rock ballad is "All I Want Is You." It's really a classic band and Bono has great vocal range. He has transcended pop icon status; he's now a social icon, because he's using his influence for global concerns.

Do you see yourself writing along the lines of a U2 song?

If I had more freedom and more talent, of course I would! If I could only have Bono's brilliance and the way he sings and writes, I'd gladly do that. The fact that I've started writing songs for my album is already opening doors for me. It's something new and I've gladly taken up the challenge.

Which is more powerful as a medium, film or music?

I think they complement each other. But film has a stronger influence. A song has to be supported by visuals for it to come to life. A song you hear becomes different when it's played on film.

Which movies do you find powerful?

"Dekada '70." It had a powerful socio-political content. It changed my whole life as an actor. I gained confidence when I started winning awards. It made me feel I was really part of the business, that I could really be a serious actor. Among foreign movies, I like "Transformers." I've always been a fan of Steven Spielberg. My all-time favorite pop movie is "Reality Bites," being a fan of Winona Ryder. I love musicals like "Phantom of the Opera." Story-wise, I love "Titanic." I'm a sucker for love stories.

New twists, more musicians needed

REVIEW

HOW LUCKY CAN PIOLO PASCUAL GET?

"Timeless," his fifth album for Star Records, is said to have instantly turned platinum because two corporate sponsors had plunked in money for advance orders (with corresponding tie-up deals, of course). Piolo himself is surprised that his mall tours have registered increased sales, from the usual 100, to the current 350 a day.

But more than financial returns, what is there to like about "Timeless"?

Unlike other singer-wannabes, Piolo's vocals, though a bit thin, actually sounds pleasant and in tune. There is honesty in the way he expresses feelings; he even soars with vibrato at the climax of some tracks.

But the songs' sentiments can be a bore. In most cuts, what one hears are never-ending pledges of love and devotion—not bad, since this is what romantic tunes are about. There are, however, other ways of writing love ballads.

There's one here, "Turuan Mo Ako" (written by Richard Poon), that deviates from the rest. It's not outstanding, but at least it has a twist: "*Turuan mo akong magmahal/ Bakit ang nararamdama'y di tumatagal...*"

Piolo's attempts at writing lyrics, though still amateurish, shows a lot of promise. "There for Me" has vivid images, such as comparisons with soldiers and angels depicting the subject's devotion and attitude.

What's new about this album is Piolo's increased creative control, even if the collection still includes a few covers, like True Faith's "Dahil Ikaw" and Rey Valera's "Walang Kapalit."

He should demand more musicians next time, because the arrangements here are too generic for "Timeless" to make a lasting difference. *Pocholo Concepcion*

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THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	BRATZ G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SHOOT' EM UP R13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20
UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	ROUGE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:30,3.00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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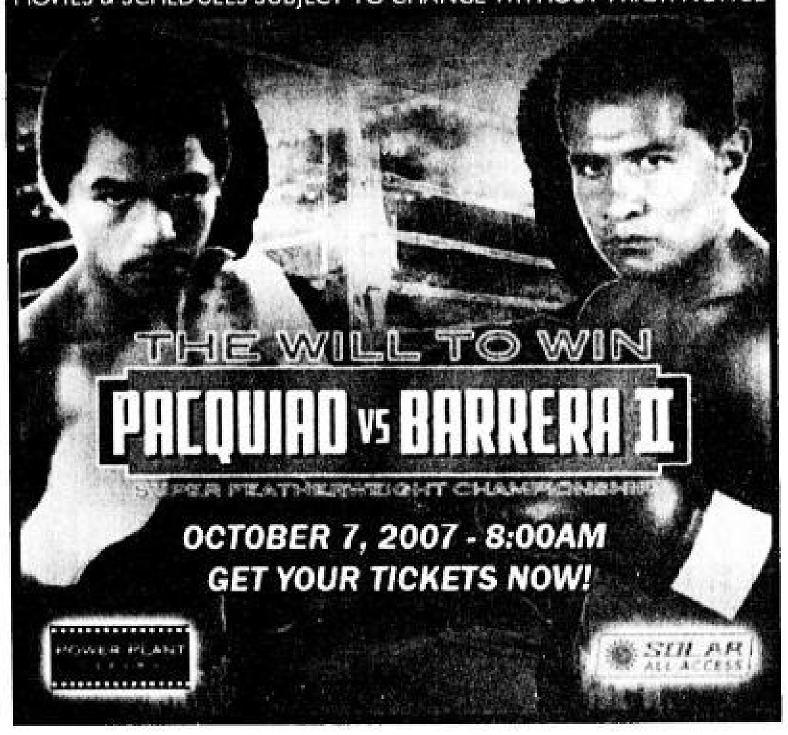

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③ UNDERDOG (GP) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30 THE BRAVE ONE (R-13) 5:30, 8:00

④ SHOOT 'EM UP (R-13) 12:40, 2:30, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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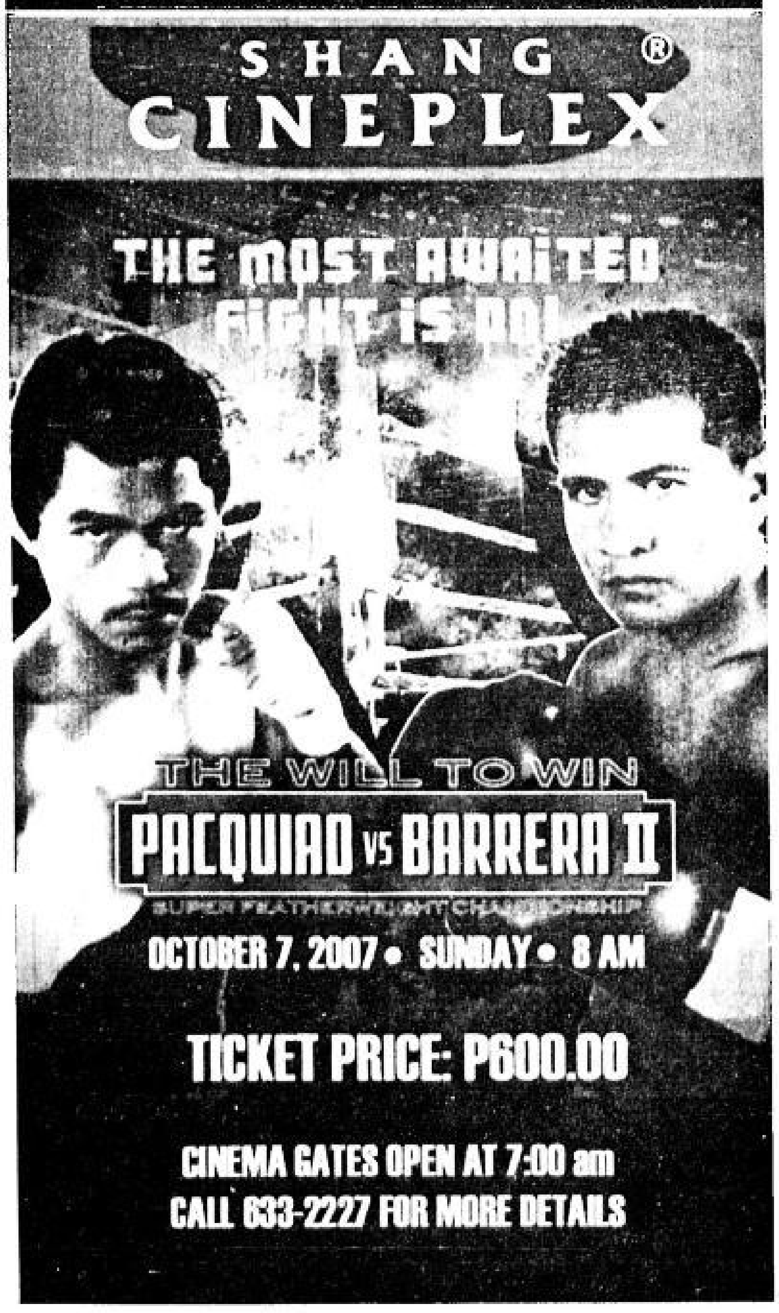

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From Toronto to Batanes

Shortly after making her H'wood debut, Iza Calzado shoots a Pinoy indie flick

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF IZA CALZADO

TAKING a coffee break with friend Denise Albert, left, and director Yam Laranas, center.

ON THE DAY SHE WAS BEING fitted with a "face cast" by prosthetic makeup expert Paul Jones on the set of Yam Laranas' "The Echo" in Toronto, Iza Calzado was grinning from ear to ear.

"He asked why I was always smiling," recalls Calzado, now back in Manila. "I told him it was because I couldn't believe I was in Canada, shooting a Hollywood movie."

To think, she plays an abused wife in the US remake of "Sigaw." "I was *bugbog* [battered], emotionally and physically throughout the month-long shoot."

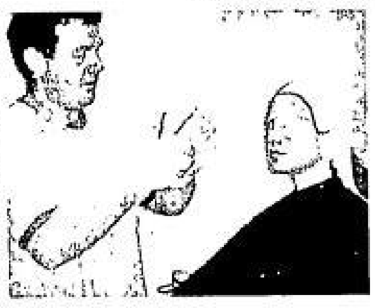
That was why she had made "cheerfulness" her goal (and coping mechanism): "I simply enjoyed myself."

Kiddie crush

But who wouldn't have a blast, having US hunk Jesse Bradford as co-star?

"He was my crush when he was a kid in 'King of the Hill.' But I didn't want to look star-struck, so I played it cool."

Although she had stopped herself from asking for an autograph, she cinched a snapshot with Bradford. "He took our photo [with his free arm]. He said he was good in taking pictures that way."



MAKEUP expert Paul Jones, shown here fitting Iza's face cast, noticed that the Pinay was "always smiling."

Bradford is a total pro, she recounts. "One time, the stand-in could've covered for him, but still he turned up and did the scene with me. I love the feeling when the actor is in the same place, emotionally, with me. I wish we had more scenes together."

SCREEN husband Kevin Durand, says Iza, is "a very intense and intelligent actor."

PHOTO by Jesse Bradford. The H'wood actor took this snapshot with his left hand, recalls Iza.

Calzado also has fond memories of screen husband Kevin Durand, Russell Crowe's current co-star in the hit Western "3:10 to Yuma." "He's a very intelligent actor. He asked questions and would discuss scenes with me," Calzado relates.

She says that she also hit it off with co-star Amelia Warner of "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising" fame. "She said she had watched 'Sigaw' and that she liked it."

On the set, they gabbed about Philippine beaches, but the "funny thing was, in our scene together, we didn't get to talk much."

Just as amiable was Carlos Leon (yup, dad of Madonna's firstborn Lourdes), who was her "lunch buddy" on her first few days in Canada. "When he first saw me, he thought I was also Latino. He encouraged me to try out for Hispanic roles."

They ended up chatting about everything—from fruits (watermelon, grapes) to pet causes. "He commended me after learning that I host a public service show ("At Your Service Star Power" on QTV)."

In sum, she tags her Toronto trip, "liberating and fulfilling."

Liberating, she explains, because she experienced "the freedom of walking in the streets in relative anonymity … and fulfilling because it was a dream come true."

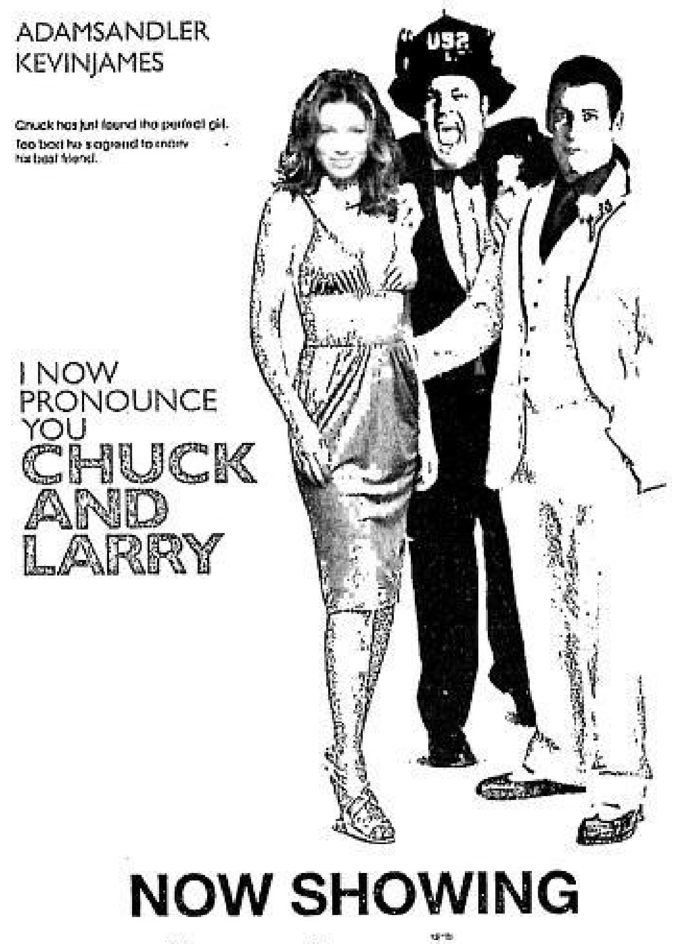
Back in Manila, she is packing her bags once again, to shoot Adolf Alix and Dave Hukom's "Batanes." She is enthusiastic, to say the least. "I saw the trailer of [Alix's previous film] 'Kadin' and found Batanes inspiring."

New screen guy

Cameras start grinding first week of October. Here, she co-stars with Taiwan's Ken Zhu, star of "Meteor Garden" and formerly of the boy band F4.

As in "The Echo," she did research on her co-star, prior to filming.

"I checked out Ken's website and found out that he does a lot of charity work for children … and that he cooks," she exclaims. "I love him already!"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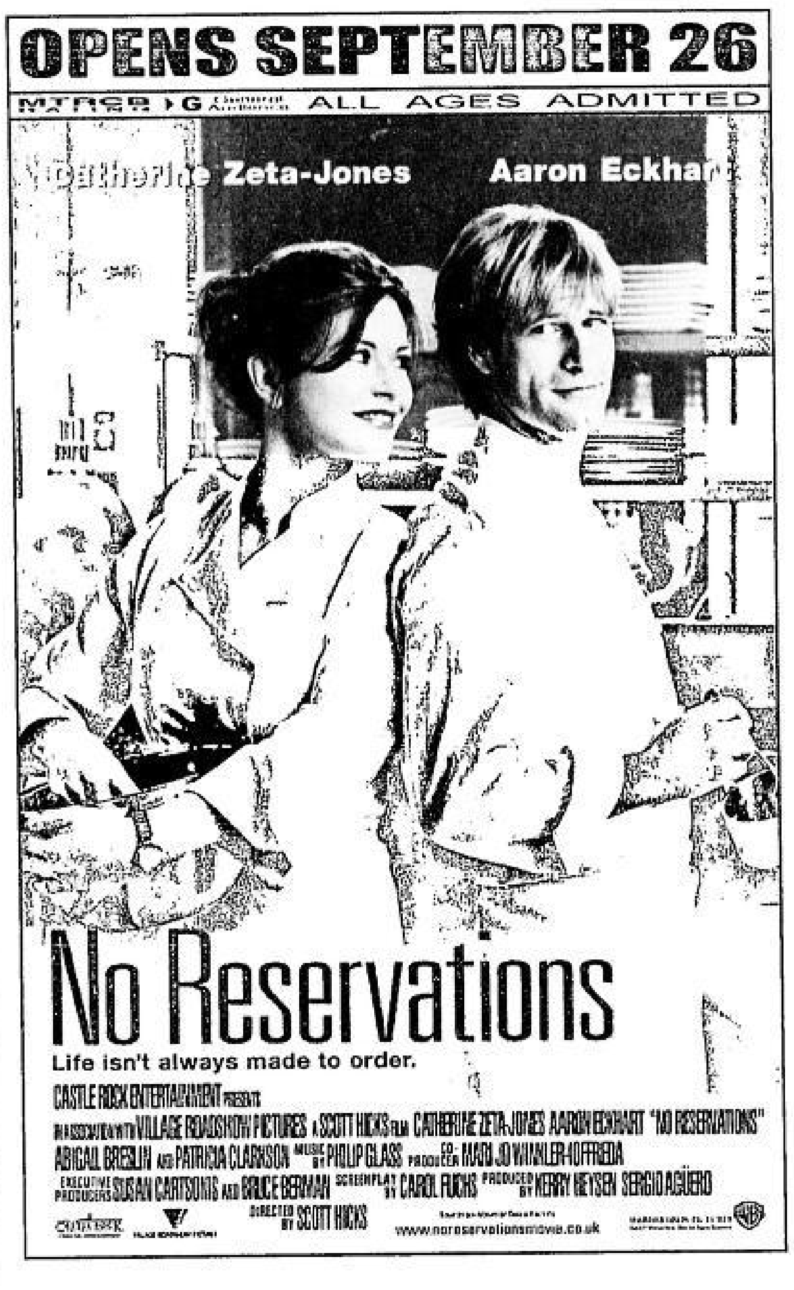
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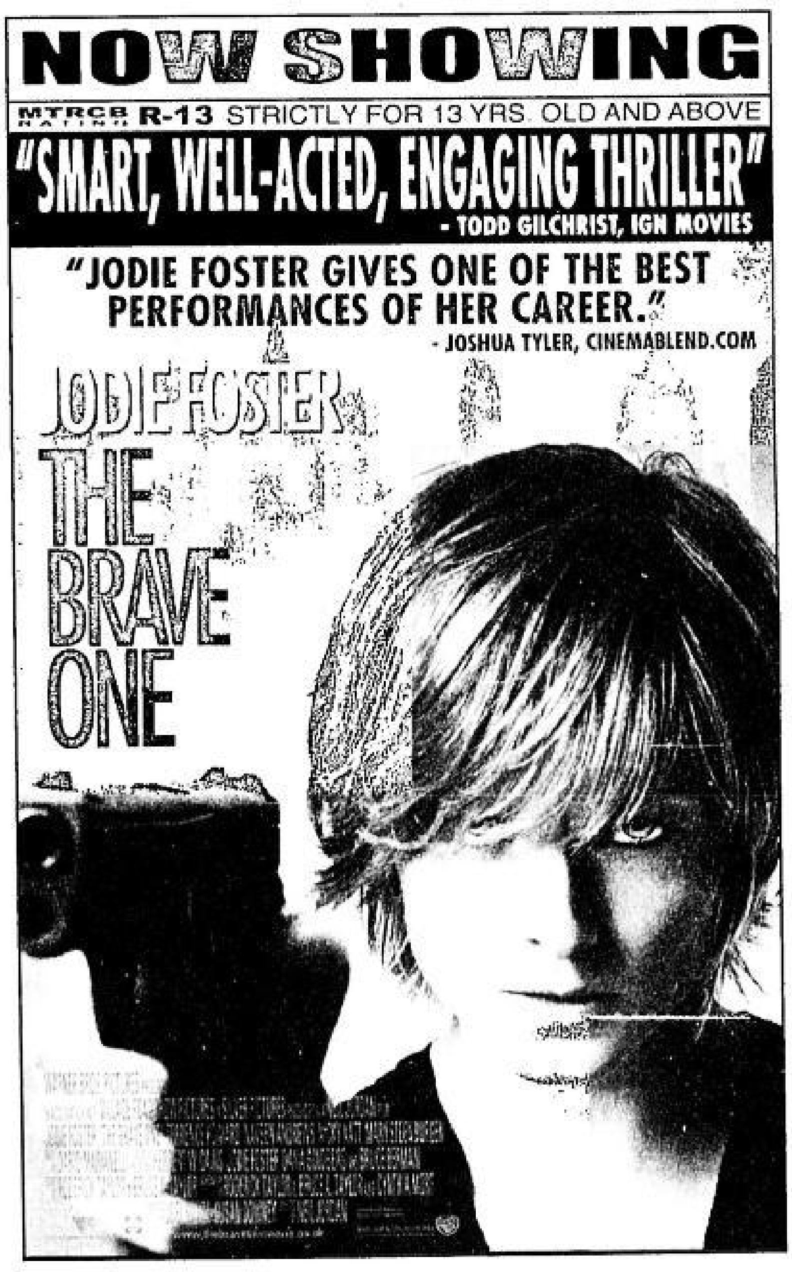
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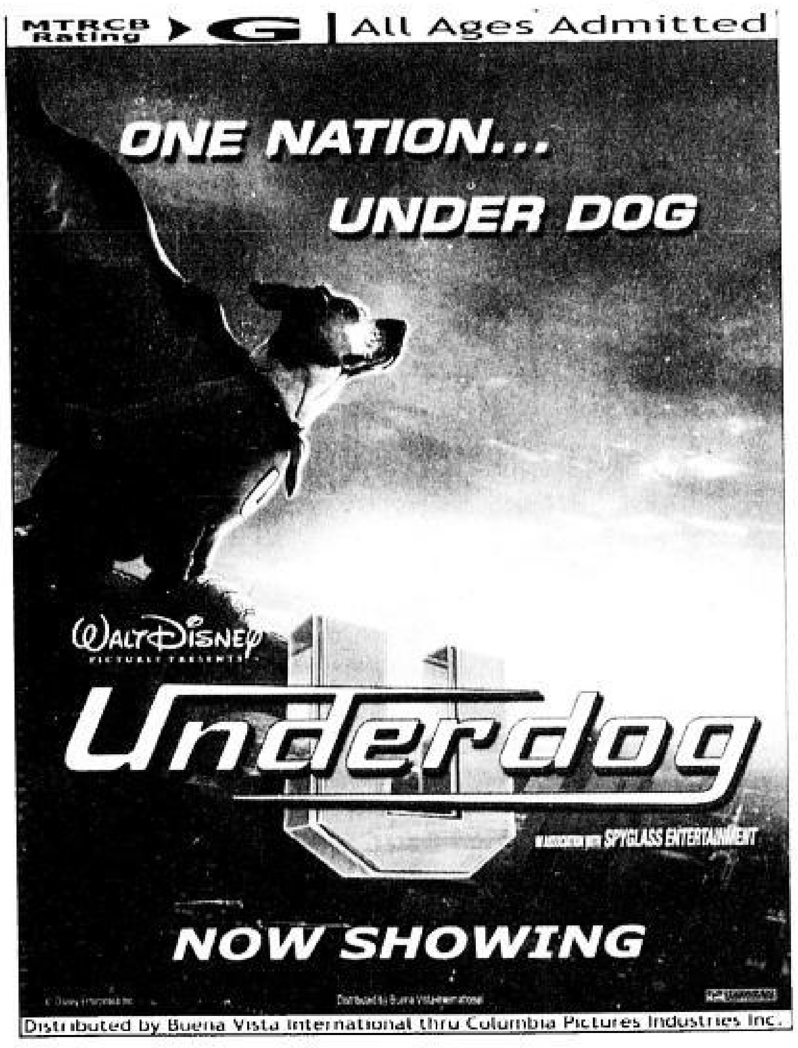
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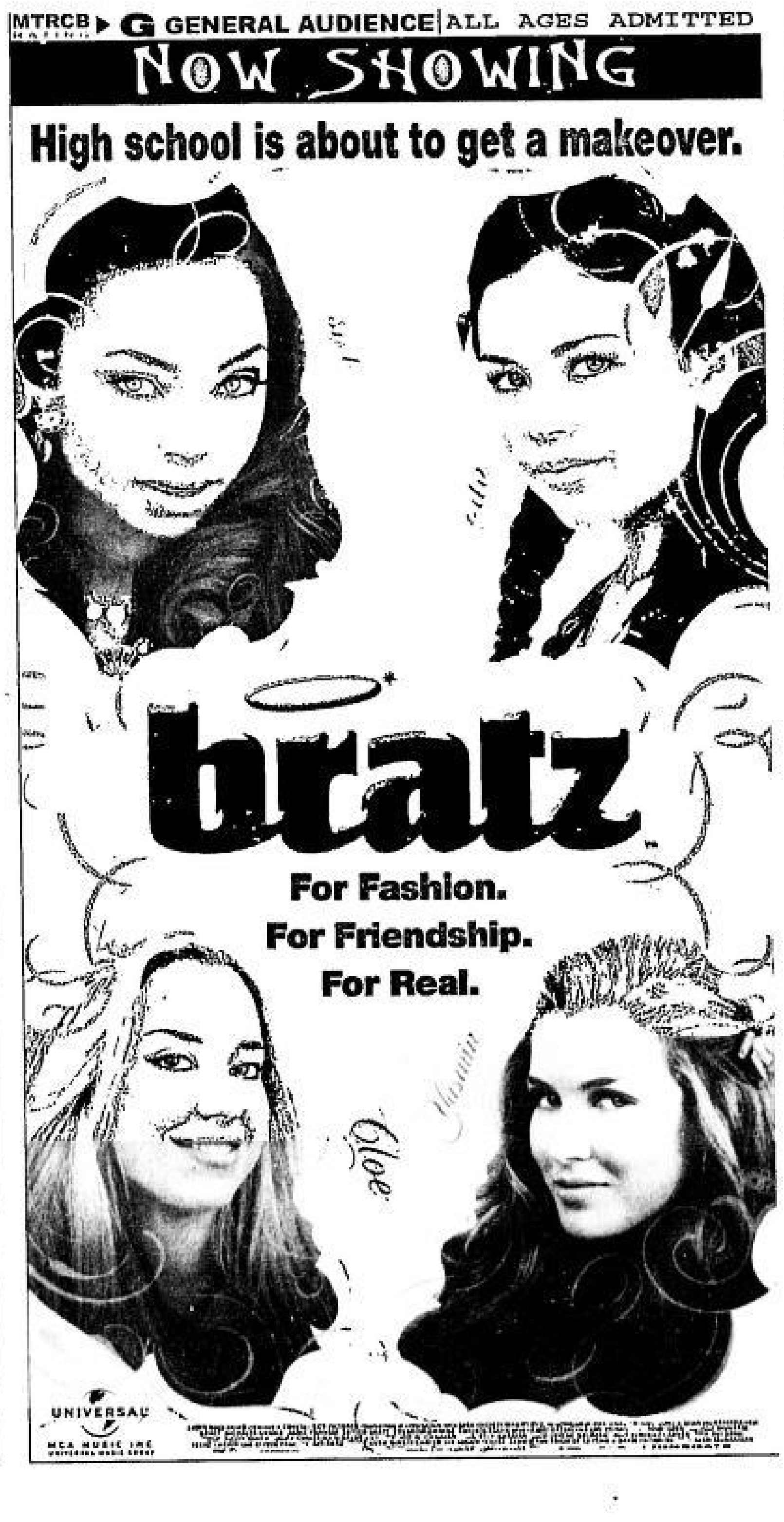
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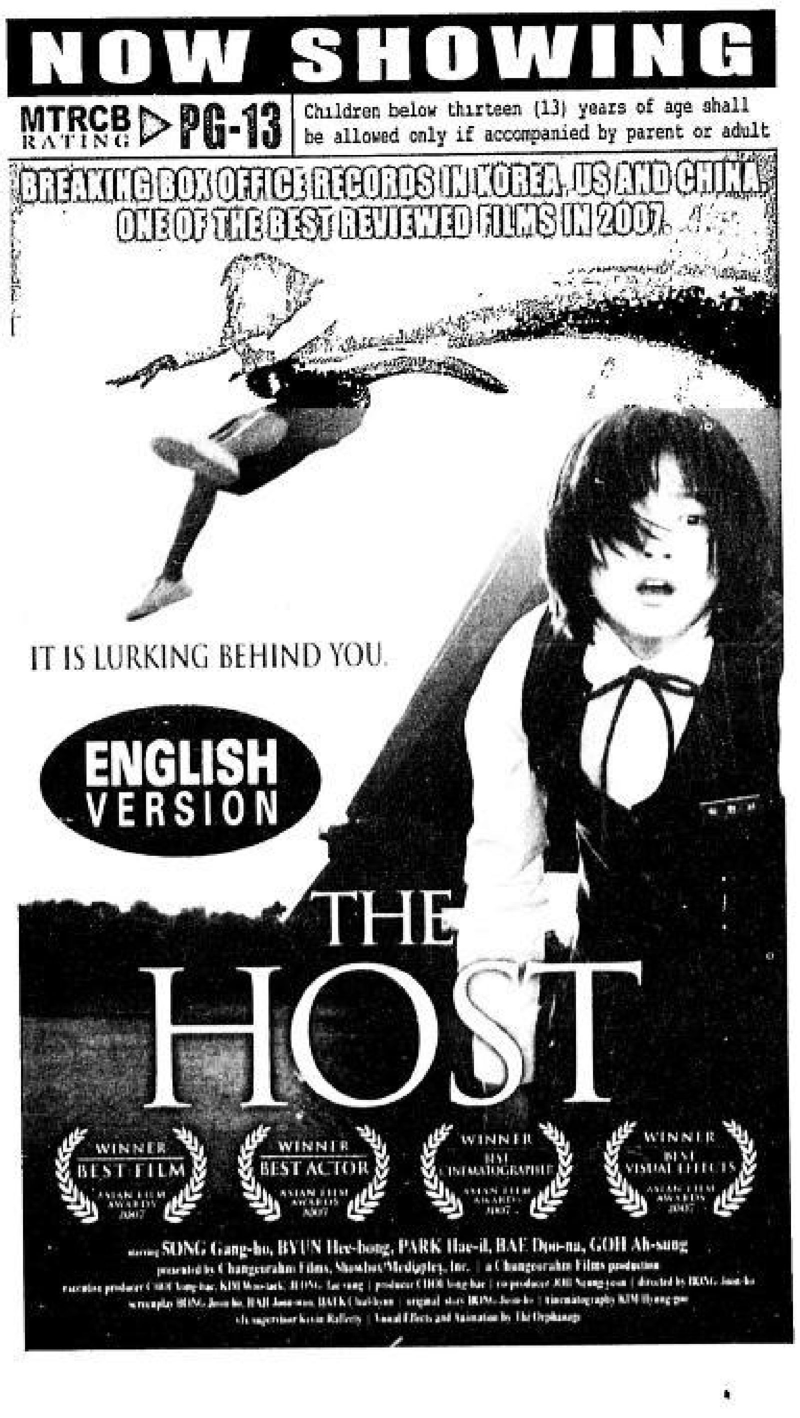
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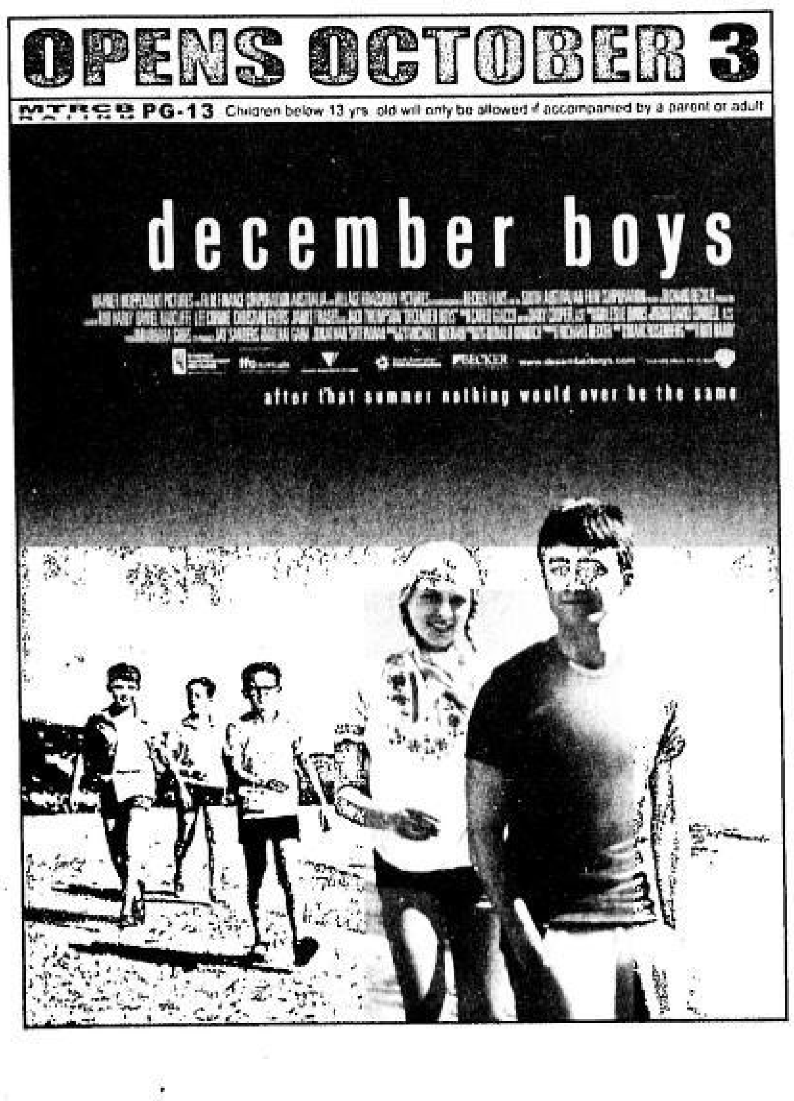
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3 UNDERDOG
THE BRAVE ONE
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

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2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 SHOOT THEM UP
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2 SINKING JAPAN
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2 SHOOT THEM UP
3 BRATZ
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 CHUCK & LARRY
6 UNDERDOG
7 1408
8 HOST
9 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
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2 (DOLBY) SHOOT THEM UP
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4 HOST
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2 RISE
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2 ROGUE ASSASIN
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3 BRATZ / THE BRAVE ONE
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3 UNDERDOG
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2 1408
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2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE INVASION

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2 UNDERDOG
3 SKINWALKERS

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2 1408

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2 THE INVASION

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2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 DRAZEN WOMAN
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2 HAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3 DAY WATCH
4 SIGNOS
5 BLINDATING

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4 1408

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1 THE BRAVE ONE • THX
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

2 ANG LALAKE SA PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

3 indieSine: GULONG
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

7 BRATZ
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 UNDERDOG
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10.00

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GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?

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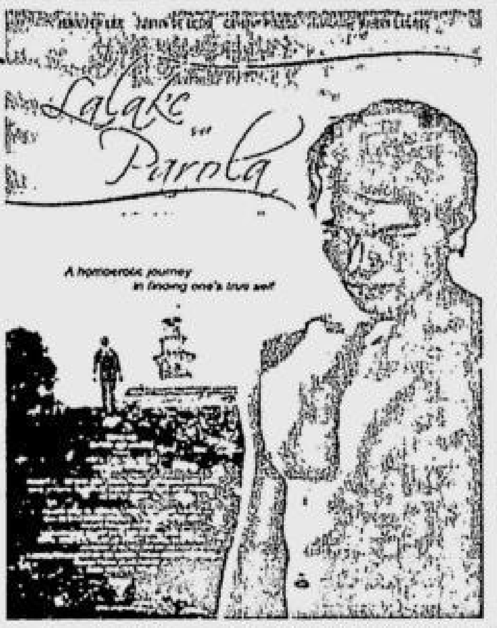
Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

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1 SHOOT 'EM UP
10:40 12:40 2:40 4:40 6:40 8:35 10:00

2 UNDERDOG 12:00 1:45 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 BRATZ
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 THE HOST
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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1 BRATZ
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 SHOOT 'EM UP
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9.00

7 UNDERDOG
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 THE BRAVE ONE
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

PIONEER

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15

2 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10

4 THE HOST
12:50 3:20 6:50 8:20

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2 DAYWATCH
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 DISTURBIA

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2 SKINWALKERS
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG

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1 NANCY DREW
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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2 THE LAST LEGION
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2 A LOVE STORY
3 1408

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1 SKINWALKERS
2 1408
3 DISTURBIA
4 UNDERDOG
5 WAITRESS
6 THE LAST LEGION

Four de
she deb
onscree
Pareño,
finds re
and rec

IN THE 1970s, she specialized in "hooker-with-a-heart-of-gold" roles, says director Elwood Perez. "She was spunky."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GINA PAREÑO

THIS PAST YEAR, WHENEVER she had to attend an awards show here or abroad, actress Gina Pareño never left home without these essentials: a rosary, a tiny angel figure and a small framed photo of late friend Bong Eraña.

In bringing these trinkets, she explains to INQUIRER Entertainment in a series of interviews that spans over a year, she is "sharing" not only her victories, but all her experiences—big and small, sad and happy moments—with God and Eraña who passed away six years ago.

"That's why I relate to my character Amelita in 'Kubrador,'" she says in Filipino. "Our loved ones who've left us never really left us. They're still here, guiding us, helping us. *Sila ang pumapadrino sa atin sa Itaas* (They mediate between God and us.)"

By all indications, Pareño has pretty influential mediators in heaven: 2006 was a banner year for her.

She recounts that those lucky charms were in her purse when she won Best Actress in India, Belgium and France (for Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador")—and when she virtually swept the local awards derby as Best Actress (also for "Kubrador," from Pasado, Gawad Tanglaw, Golden Screen Enpress and Urian) and Best Supporting Actress (for Jose Javier Reyes' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" from the Metro Manila Film Festival and Star Philippine Movie Press Club).

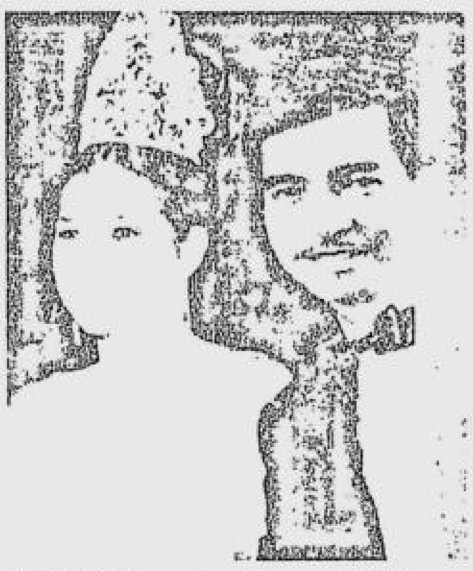
Talent manager Ed Instrella, a self-confessed fan from the Stars '66 days, comments: "She always stood out. She had the same appeal as Bridget Bardot. It's great to know that the promise of '66 reached full bloom in '06."

That Pinay Bardot, however, was brash and boyish growing up in the 1950s.

Born Geraldine Acthley, she describes her young self as "gangly, flat-chested, with short hair … a malnourished *mestiza*" who'd "pass for a boy."

She says her mother Patricia Ocura, a *takilyera* (ticket seller) at the Mayfair Theater on Avenida, thinks she looks "like my German-American father." An only child, she never met him. "All my young life, my mom was the only one with me," Gina says without rancor.

To help mom make ends meet, she juggled odd jobs at a very tender age. At 13, she worked as tricycle driver on the streets of Zapote and JP Rizal, Makati. "My last stop was Bermeheco. Tricycle fare was only 20 centavos. I was so glad every time I earned P2. *Ang galunggong noon, 10 sentimos isang tumpok* (a mound of fish cost 10 centavos)."



PERENNIAL partner Tommy Abuel says Gina is an instinctive actress. "She always knows what to do on the set."

Odd jobs

She sold mangoes and *maruya* (fried banana fritters) on Sampaguita Street, near the Hippodrome, every Sunday, when there was a race at the Sta. Ana tracks.

The street-smart lass, however, secretly nurtured a dream of becoming a movie actress. "*Maarte ako* (I was melodramatic). I would often practice crying in front of the mirror."

Her golden ticket proved to be the ABC variety show "Dance-O-Rama." Only 14 at the time, Gina was declared the daily, weekly, monthly and finally the year's "Miss Dance-O-Rama."

Boots Anson-Roa, co-host and wife of the late "Dance-O-Rama" host Pete Roa, remembers Pareño as "a flawless beauty with porcelain skin."

Gina recalls, "I didn't care about the cash, all I wanted was to act." Part of the prize was a cameo in the show's big-screen version, which would top-bill reigning movie queen Susan Roces.

Soon enough, Dr. Jose Perez of Sampaguita Pictures sent her a call slip.

For eight months, she toiled in bit roles. "*Nag*-extra *muna ako*. That was my training. I was paid P3 per movie. When I tell today's

young stars abc
laugh."

She rememb
Perez, finally to
in the smorgasb

Later, she wa
Gutierrez's lady

"By then, my
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AS PAULINA in Pablo Gome
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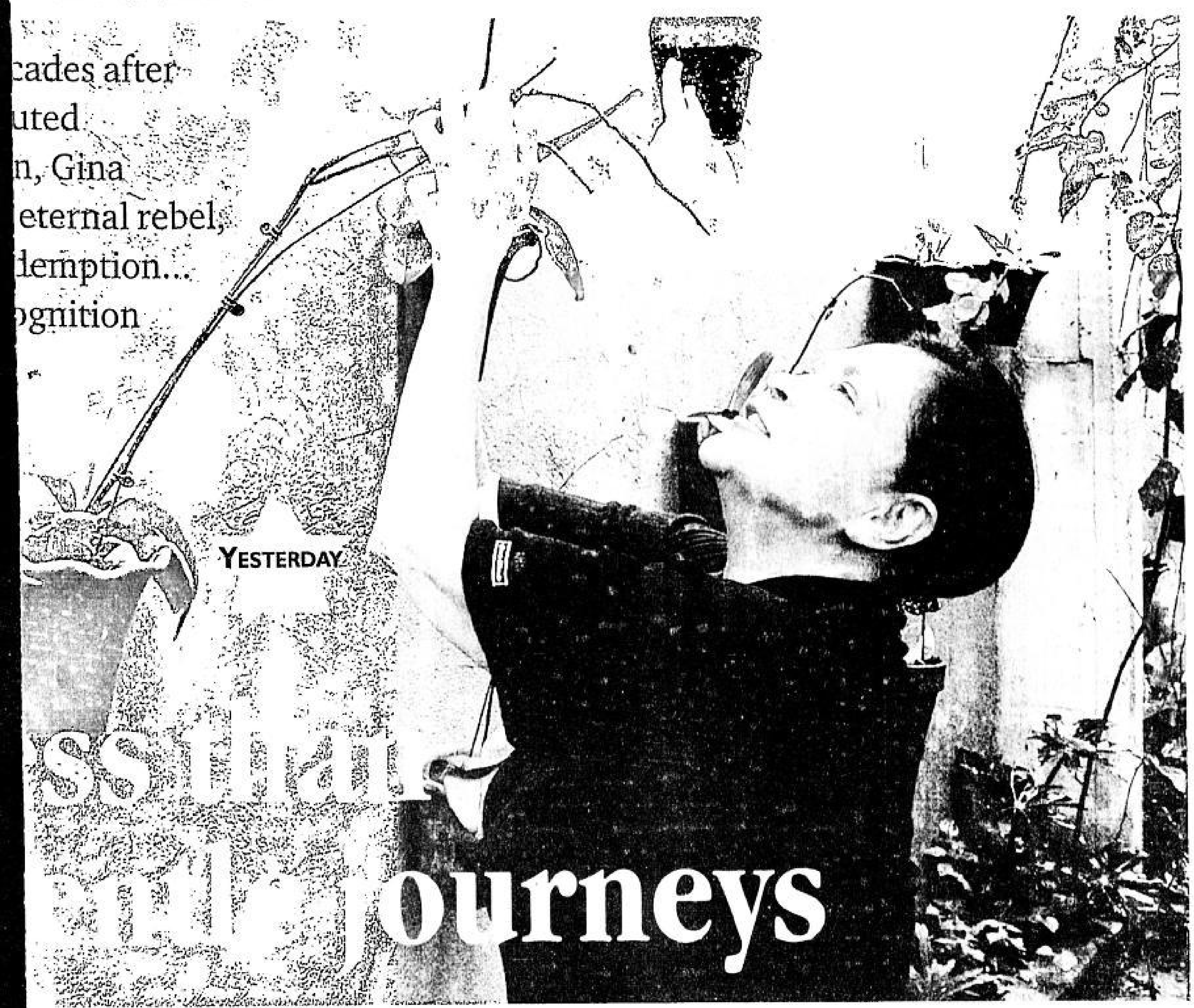


…cades after
…uted
…n, Gina
…eternal rebel,
…demption…
…ognition

YESTERDAY

…ss that … journeys

SHE spends quiet weekends in her rest house in the province, where she takes care of orchids.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

…first talent fee, they

…at the public, and Doc
…tico when she appeared
…drama, "Mama" in 1966.
…usted to play Eddie
…in "Eddie Longlegs."
…y had gone up to P8,000
…

…she never really fit in the
…old of "sweet" screen

…portrayed twins, a vir-
…blood-sucking baddie, in

…rbirth when I made that
movie," she exclaims.

By the time she donned the sexy costume of the Pinay superheroine in "Darna at Planet Man" in 1969, she points out, "I already had three kids—Arturo (now deceased), Raquel and Michael."

Recalls director Elwood Perez, who worked with Pareño in films like "Si Popeye, Atbp." and "Bawal: Asawa Mo, Asawa Ko" in the 1970s: "She was spunky. Full of verve and vitality."

Gina's take: "*Matapang ako* (I was fearless)." She thought nothing of performing
…gh wires.
…red the screen with a
…ed the trainer how to
…ld: He told me that I just
…d between the snake
…ly twist its tail."
…t too close for comfort,
…s told, making the poor
…the camera. "The cam-
…I that he ran away, leav-
…ing. *Ang daming*

nasayang na film (Reels of film got wasted)."

Not even "Darna," however, prepared her for the Snakes and Ladders game that's show biz.

By her own admission, she relished being the outsider.

Movies were hard to come by at this point, and the self-confessed rebel busied herself with rallies. She was a staunch supporter of the opposition, even though most show biz denizens were Marcos loyalists in 1978.

"I was just a silent supporter. I never went up the stage and campaigned for Laban, but I always joined motorcades on my own."

Comebacks

In 1984, she made the second in a string of comebacks after eight years of absence.

That same year she earned a double nomination from the Urian for two very different roles: a kooky jeweler in "Working Girls" and a martyr squatter mom in "Bukas, Luluhod ang mga Tala." (She went home empty-handed then.)

In both movies, Tommy Abuel was her partner. "She was instinctive then," he says. "She always knew what to do in front of the camera."

Although she seemed the consummate professional onscreen, her life was in a shambles.

In the early 1990s, she got in trouble with the law for substance abuse.

"The police raided my home. They took everything, all my movie memorabilia. Even my bra and lingerie," she recalls in a tragic-comic tone. But she weathered that crisis as well.

"*Noong nagkamali ako, noong na*-rehab *ako*, I told God: 'Sorry *po*. All I want is to act. I need to come back *po*. I miss acting terribly.'"

In the mid-1990s, she became a regular in ABS-CBN and Star Cinema projects.

Filmmaker Rory Quintos remembers a different Pareño on the set of "Ipaglaban Mo the Movie 2" in 1997.

"She is always full of surprises. She is one of the few actresses I know who can deliver five or six different emotions in one line of dialogue," Quintos opines.

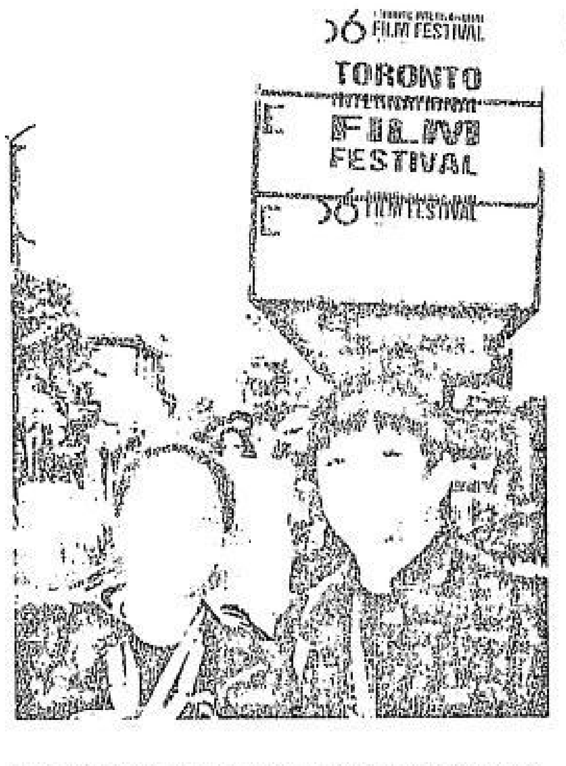
Gina came up with such "layered" performances because she always reports on the set prepared, Quintos notes. "She does her own sequence breakdowns."

Gina admits that she keeps very detailed notes on her scripts. "I would mark the scenes where my character appears. I would put a star beside the sequence number if it's a dramatic highlight."

No matter how early her call time the next day and how late she wrapped up the night before, "I make sure to read the script two hours before I sleep."

"I always tell younger actors to emulate seasoned, disciplined actors like her," says Quintos, who reunited with Gina on the ABS-CBN soap opera "Ysabella" this year.

"She is so real," says Judy Ann Santos of her mom in "Kasal" and guardian in "Ysabella." "I've



AT THE 2006 Toronto film fest, with "Kubrador" director Jeffrey Jeturian.

seen her at her happiest and most vulnerable moments. When Bong died, I saw how she coped."

Gina looked up to Eraña, who once starred in LVN movies as teen star Nenita Vidal, as her "mentor."

"Bong helped me a lot—in so many ways," she reminisces.

On a trip to Dipolog, she was a bit cranky and failed to smile at fans at the public market. Eraña gave her a dressing-down. "Bong reminded me: 'You've had three comebacks already. If you really want to continue acting, you should learn to adjust and be nice to other people because they're the ones who support your career.' Show biz folks would only flatter you, but Bong told me the truth."

Lesson in humility

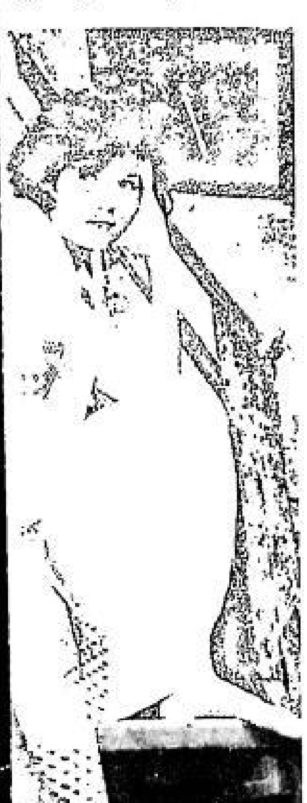
Eraña taught her humility—a lesson that is all the more important in a time of plenty, she says. "I didn't know that it was possible … that you can be content and humble at the same time. If I don't win another award, I'd be fine."

Twenty-three years after her first double nomination from the Urian, she again scored twin nods for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress from the country's premier critics' group this year. (She won her first Urian for "Kubrador.")

"I was so excited," she tells the INQUIRER a day after the Urian triumph.

It's because for her a trophy is no longer just a trophy. It's redemption and recognition rolled into one.

"All I wanted to do when I was a kid was to act. Then I got into drugs and lost everything. But I was able to recover. *Nakabawi ako sa lahat*. Now, everyone, from stewardesses to cigarette vendors, call me Ma'am Gina. I feel their respect and it humbles me all the more."



CELEBRATING with her mother Patricia (third from left, seated), four grandchildren and two children Michael (first from right, seated) and Raquel (first from right, standing).

AS THE Pinay superheroine in "Darna at Planet Man" in 1969. "I already had three kids by then."

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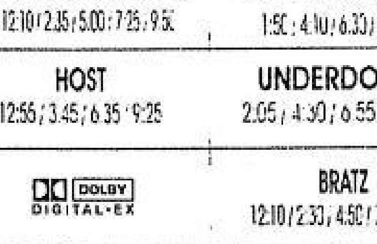
SHOOT EM UP



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Frustrated newbies from reality search rush back home

RUSHES SUNDAY

A YOUNG SINGER TOLD A SHOW BIZ veteran how a production company affiliated with a giant network exploited new talents, all products of a reality search. He was supposedly paid P15,000 for two hit songs, inclusive of royalties. Plus, he said, he and his batch mates do not have copies of their contracts. Last he heard, his fellow newbies are back in their hometowns, disenchanted.

But not for Jen

A GMA 7 insider insists that **Jennylyn Mercado** was not pulled out of the planned series "Love Pow," says she turned it down. Another Kapuso source says Jennylyn was never in the picture. "Pasan Ko ang Daigdig" wasn't for Jen, either, said the source. "It was really meant for **Yasmien Kurdi**. Jen's next big project for GMA 7, the source said, is a remake of the **Sharon Cuneta** movie, "My Only Love," which will be shot abroad.

JENNYLIN Mercado

YASMIEN Kurdi

Heartless heartthrob

This hunk has a mean streak.

When a production staffer slipped and fell on the floor, the TV host laughed uncontrollably. But karma was swift and just as merciless. He bumped slammed into a glass door, and onlookers cracked up.

Oldies, goldies

NEW YORK—When it comes to picking up royalty checks, the oldies are still the goldies, according to a new list naming veteran rockers the Rolling Stones as the top earning musicians of the past year. According the Forbes.com website, the Stones earned $88 million from June 2006 till June this year, thanks largely to their "Bigger Bang" tour, which kicked off in 2005 and has grossed $437 million to date. And although 37-year-old rapper and head of Def Jam records **Jay-Z** came second in the list with total income of $83M, most of the top earners are better known to toe-tapping older generations. **Madonna**, 49, came in third with $72M. US hard rockers **Bon Jovi** took home $67M. **Elton John**, 60, earned $53M, ahead of Canadian pop singer **Celine Dion** with $45M. *AFP*

SUNSHINE Dizon

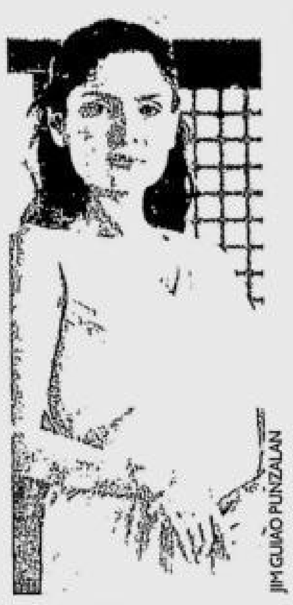
***

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- **Tetchie Agbayani**, *ayaw mag*-pose *sa* FHM.
- "I won't glorify God *kung maghuhubad ako.*"—**Jennica Garcia**
- **Karylle** *pinayagan ni* **Dingdong Dantes** *na magpa-seksi.*
- *Kahit sinabi na niyang maliit ang kanya,* **Joseph Bitangcol**, *madalas hipuan ni* **Keanna Reeves.**
- **Dennis Trillo, Aljur Abrenica** *at* **Marky Cielo**, *pinagpiyestahan ng mga bading!* (As in?)
- *Pagkatapos ng* break-up *nila ni* **Sam Milby, Anne Curtis** *nawawala.* (*Sa sarili, o* without a trace?)
- Game show *ni* **Kris Aquino**, *titigbakin dahil sa* poor ratings. (Who's gonna tell her?)
- TV show *ni* **Mel Tiangco**, *tsugi na?* (Something in the air?)
- **Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson**, *nasarapan sa halikan!*
- Kim, *'di nalasahan ang halik ni* Gerald? (*Ano kaya talaga?*)
- *Lampungan nina* **Ogie** *at* **Regine** *sa* TV, *nakakadiri.* (*Baka naman nakakainggit?*)
- Regine and Ogie's PDA annoying. (If you insist.)
- *Tsismis kina* **John Prats, Shaina Magdayao** *ayaw mamatay.*
- **Rayver Cruz** doubts John, Shaina are sweethearts.
- Shaina says it's Rayver, not John courting her. (*Kaya pala.*)
- **Aiko Melendez** *bata pa, nakakadalawang asawa na.*
- Third party *sa hiwalayang* Aiko-**Martin**, *tukoy na.* (Afraid.)
- *Usaping pera, pasok sa hiwalayang* Aiko-Martin.
- Aiko, *di na ginagamit ang apleyido ng asawa.* (*Mahirap* i-spell?)
- Aiko, battered wife?
- **Phoemela Barranda**, *bugbog-sarado sa gitaristang* BF? (Cute *pa naman 'yon. May balibag* factor *pala?*)
- **Sunshine Dizon**, *ayaw mapag-usapan ang* love life. (*Kami rin; tama na 'yan.*)
- Sunshine on **Angelu**: *Kung gusto niyang mambuking, e di mambuking siya nang mambuking."*
- Sunshine, *naubusan ng lakas sa "Impostora." (Ay, buking!)*
- **Angel Locsin**, *sising-sisi sa paglipat sa* Dos?
- *Tapatan nina* **Juday** *at* Angel, *niluluto.* (*Talo si* Angel; course *ni* Juday *'yan, 'di ba?*)
- **Angel**, *nag-react sa pagpasok ni* **KC Concepcion** *sa* Dos. (*Kakabakaba ka ba?*)
- Angel, *nanamlay ang* career! (*Sagot,* **Ate Becky!**)
- **Joey de Leon**, indefinite leave *sa "Startalk."*
- Joey, *naguluhan sa natanggap na* memo; *namaalam muna sa "Startalk." (Reader Mary Ville, of 65218 Madrugada St. Chino Hills, California, reacts: "It's about time someone stuffed Joey de Leon's mouth. Please, we are sick and tired of this same old subject—**Willie Revillame**—every single day. We here in California pay so much money to subscribe to their channel; do we deserve to hear his endless sour-graping?")*
- Willie no comment *sa* leave of absence *ni* Joey; *nakatanggap din ng sulat*/guidelines mula sa MTRCB. (An Inquirer editor, not this section's: "*Nagmumukha tuloy mabait si* Willie.")
- *Resulta ng kontrobersya sa "Wilyonaryo": Shows ng Dos, tinanggal sa* YouTube.
- **Martin Nievera**: "Enough of monkey issues." (Good call.)
- Martin, *tikom ang bibig sa kasalang* **Pops** *at* **Jomari.** (*Kasal? Sigurado?*)
- Jom, *labas sa problemang* Martin-Pops. (*Parang hindi yata. Ano sa tingin n'yo?*)
- **Rustom** *at* **Mommy Eva**, *nagkaiyakan.* (That's what moms are for.)
- *Lalake ni* Rustom, *bawal kina* Rustom *at* **Rommel.**
- **Pia Guanio** *napikon, tinalakan ang* writer *ng "Showbiz Central." (Another one?)*
- KC Concepcion *at* **Lino Cayetano**, *nag*-date *sa* play *ni* **Rachel Alejandro.**
- **Oyo Sotto, Kristine Hermosa** *nag*-date *sa isang* KTV Bar.
- KC not afraid of intrigues. (Who's her daddy?)
- **Billy Crawford** wants to invite KC to his concert. (What's wrong with that? He invited us, too.)
- KC *'di dadalo sa* concert *ni* Billy. (*E di kami na lang.*)
- **Mother Lily**, *suko na kay* **Snooky.**
- **Jay Manalo**, *suko sa sugal.*
- 2 *kasal ang pinapa*-annul *ni* Snooky. (*Anuvayan!*)
- Aiko, Snooky *malas sa lalaki.*
- Snooky, *may problema sa utak!*
- Snooky, *may sakit sa pag-iisip?* (Pareho yata 'yon.)

ANGELU de Leon



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SNOOKY Serna

Mystery girl

- *Sino ang "mystery girl"ni* **Piolo Pascual?** (Don't look at us.)
- Piolo: *"Ang pogi ko."* (Agree. Spin a win!)
- Piolo: "*Wala pa akong* girlfriend!"
- "*Marami akong* boyfriend!" — **Iwa Moto**
- Marian, *mailap sa mga lalaki!*
- Marian, willing *mag*-pose *sa* men's mag. (See, but no touch.)
- Piolo, *nagpa*-picture *kay* **Marian Rivera.** (*Mailap kaya si Marian sa kanya?*)
- GF *ni* **Mark Herras**, *lalayas na sa* show biz! (*Sino nga 'yun?*)
- **Uma Khouny** *mas* flawless *pa kay* **Wendy Valdez** *na maraming peklat at kagat ng lamok.*
- *Paalam ni* **Yilmaz** *sa mga anak, nasa* outer space *lang siya.* (There's a ring of truth in this, you know.)
- Aiza *handa nang magpa-buntis.*
- **Aiza Seguerra** type *ang semilya ng 'Kano.*
- *Pagbubuntis ni* Aiza *naunsyami.* (*E kung* Brit *kaya?*)
- **Ara Mina** to sing *'Lupang Hinirang'* at Pacquiao-Barrera fight.
- **Jinkee Pacquiao**, *nagalit nang malamang si* Ara *ang kakanta ng Pambansang Awit sa laban ni* Manny. (Who else is against this idea? Raise your hands.)
- **Pauleen Luna, Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian** *may problema sa relasyon.* (*Ayan na.*)

WENDY Valdez

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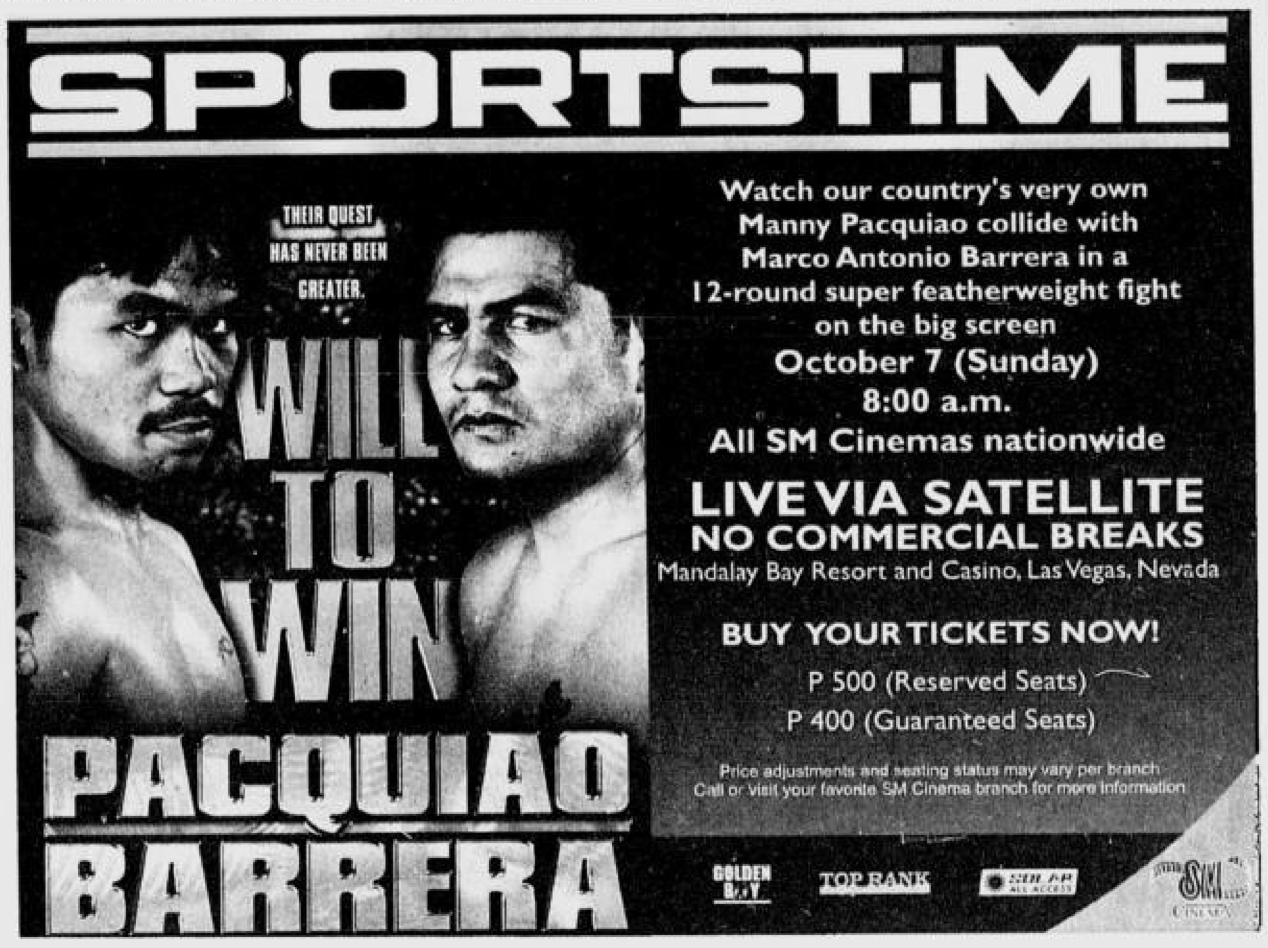

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11 EVAN ALMIGHTY
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11 1408
12 BRATZ

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3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 1408
8 THE HOST
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NANCY DREW
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 UNDERDOG

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 THE HOST

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 UNDERDOG
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 BRATZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SKINWALKERS
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 INVASION/DAYWATCH

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 1408
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 BUG
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 THE LAST LEGION
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 DAYWATCH
4 UNDERDOG
5 NANCY DREW
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 1408

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 1408
2 BLIND DATING
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DISTURBIA/DAYWATCH
2 UNDERDOG
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 DAYWATCH
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 NANCY DREW
4 INVASION
5 LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NANCY DREW
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 INVASION
2 RESERVED
3 SKINWALKERS
4 UNDERDOG
5 DISTURBIA
6 1408
7 RESERVED
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 DISTURBIA
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 NANCY DREW
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 DON'T LOOK BACK
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 SKINWALKERS
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 INVASION/SINKING OF JAPAN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROUNDUP

Stage comeback

AWARD-WINNING actress Gina Alajar returns to the Philippine stage in Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters," directed by Bobby Garcia for Atlantis Productions.

Gina plays multiple roles here, her first English language theater role. She last appeared on stage in the Tagalog version of "The Vagina Monologues."

The play goes on stage at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati on Nov. 16.

ALEXANDER Ludwig

'Potter'-like

"The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising," which features magic, artifacts, mystery and good and evil characters woven into a stimulating story, invites comparisons to the Harry Potter series.

"They do have a lot of similarities and people will draw comparisons," says Alexander Ludwig, 14, of the film that has British books, a young hero who must confront evil and a great deal of magic. "But Will is totally different from Harry Potter in so many ways. As Will, I have to figure out what's going on inside of me."

The film from 20th Century Fox opens soon in local theaters, to be distributed by Warner Bros.

Auditions

Stages is looking for young male talents between the ages 13 to 19 for a career in recording and television.

Applicants should be good-looking and can sing or dance. They should bring to a minus-one CD.

Auditions are set at the Stages office, Unit 606 Greenbelt Mansion, Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City on Sept. 29 and 30, 2 to 8 p.m. Call 8181111 loc. 225.

Subic shoot

The TV series "Ysabella" recently shot an episode at Subic's Lighthouse Marina Resort, which was used as backdrop to Derek Ramsey and Angelica Panganiban's onscreen romance.

Star endorsers

Actress Angel Locsin and Mexican boxer Erik Morales are the new endorsers of Magnolia's new line of healthy fruit beverages.

The pair, set to appear in a TV commercial, were chosen because, according to the product managers, "they embody the healthy lifestyle espoused by the beverages."

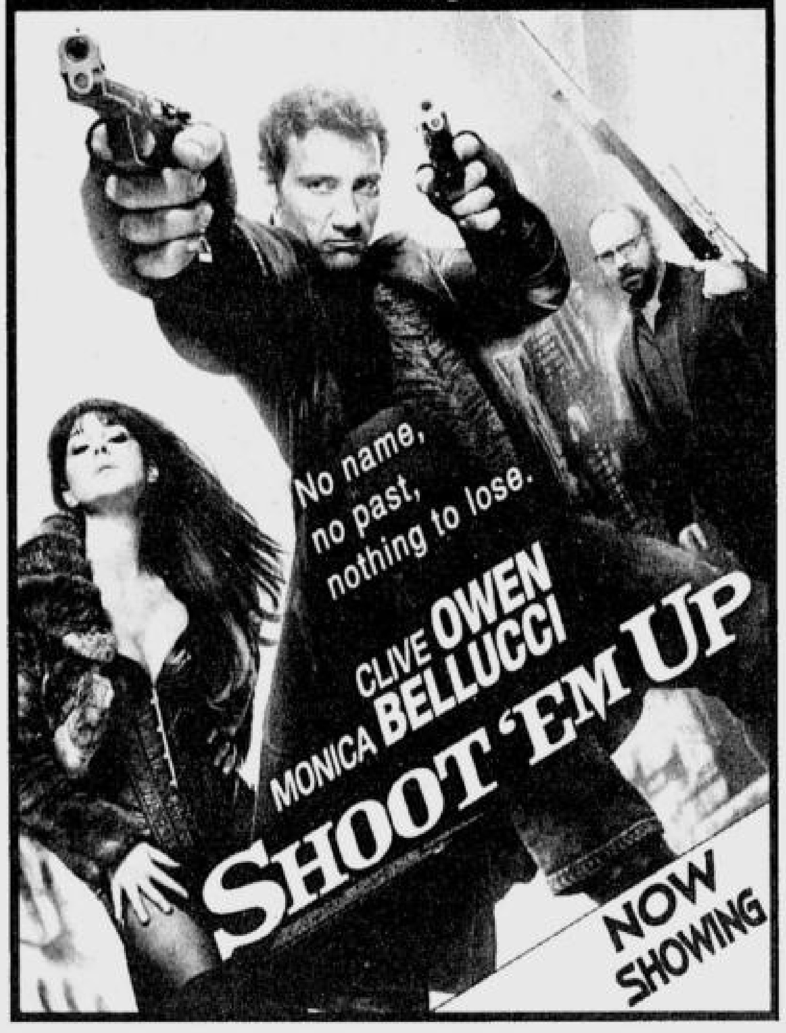
ANGELICA Panganiban and Derek Ramsey

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

"Some of this stuff is so out there YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!"
~Pete Hammond, MAXIM

"This NEW BREED of action thriller HITS THE BULL'S EYE."
~Stephen Rebello, PLAYBOY

"This is a WET DREAM for ACTION JUNKIES."
~Peter Travers, Rolling Stone



KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED...
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO

JASON BIGGS ISLA FISHER
WEDDING DAZE

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

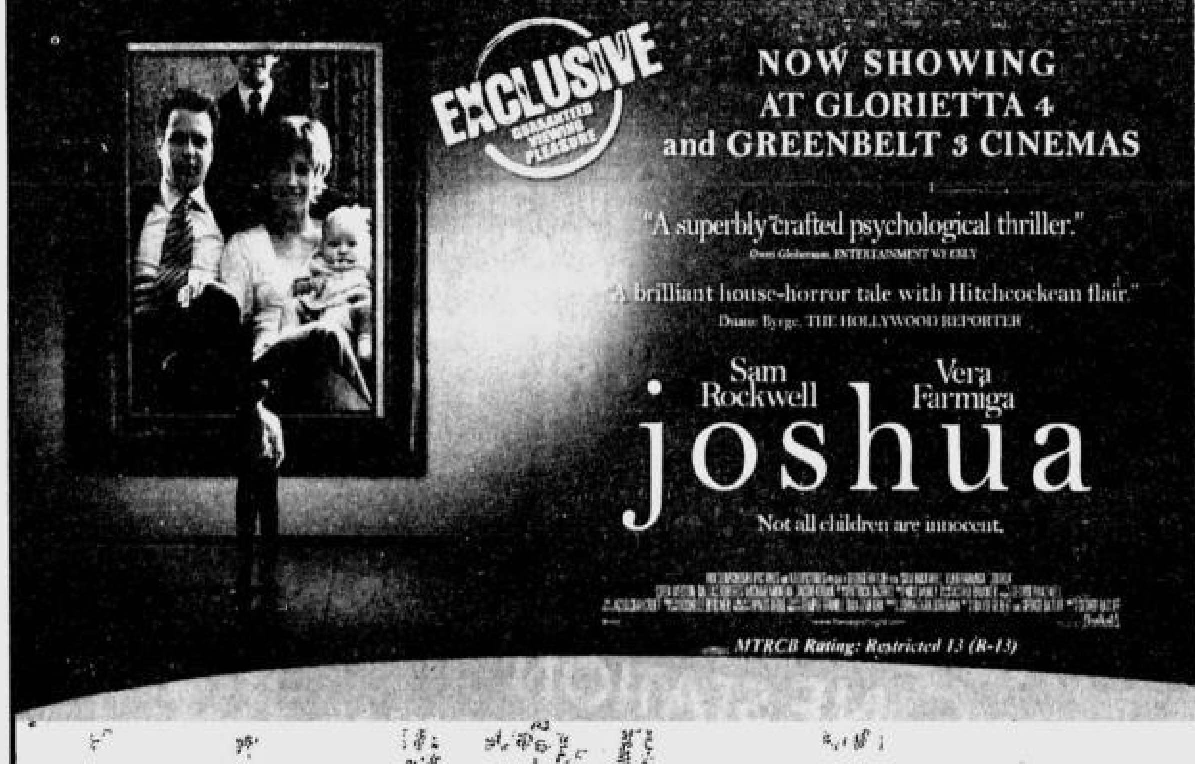
GLORIETTA 1	1 UNDERDOG	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
GLORIETTA 4	1 JOSHUA	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 THX THE BRAVE ONE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BRATZ / 1408	5 UNDERDOG	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	7 ROGUE ASSASIN
GREENBELT 1	1 SHOOT 'EM UP	2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 UNDERDOG GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 SHOOT 'EM UP		
	3 BRATZ	4 THE BRAVE ONE	5 ROGUE ASSASIN	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	2 NANCY DREW	3 ROGUE ASSASIN	4 THE LAST LEGION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ROGUE ASSASIN	2 HOST		
	3 UNDERDOG	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	5 SHOOT 'EM UP	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 1408	2 ROGUE ASSASIN	3 BRATZ / EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SHOOT 'EM UP GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 UNDERDOG	6 THE BRAVE ONE	7 THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Magnolia Events Circuit September 23, 2007 at the Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 26, 2007 at the Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Town Cheers Competition September 22 & 23, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 23, 2007; 6 PM at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	FORMS & SPACES: An Exhibition by MAIA & Aaron Bautista September 10 to 27, 2007; ArtistSpace For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: The Angfourgettables w/ the UP Concert Chorus September 22, 2007; 7 PM at the TriNoma Park



NOW SHOWING
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!

TriNoma
Activity Center
September 21
7:00pm

Glorietta
Activity Center
September 22
7:00pm

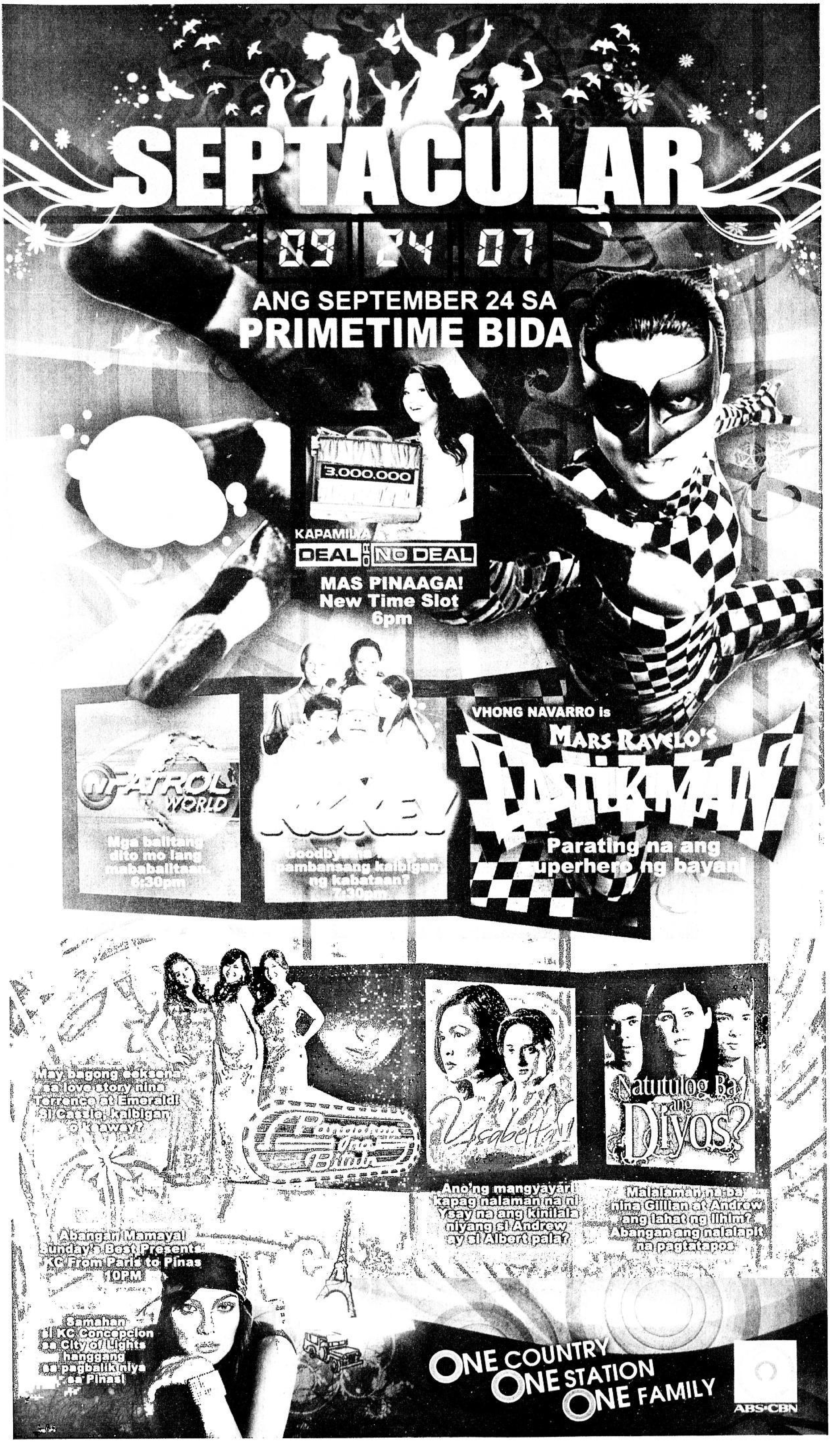
Market! Market!
Activity Center
September 23
6:00pm

Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage
September 26
6:00pm

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
September 28
6:30pm

ABC
myx
Panasonic
RX93.1

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma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ANG SEPTEMBER 24 SA
PRIMETIME BIDA
3.000.000
KAPAMILYA
DEAL OR NO DEAL
MAS PINAAGA!
New Time Slot
6pm
PATROL WORLD
Mga balitang dito mo lang mababalitaan.
6:30pm
Goodbye na
pambansang kaibigan ng kabataan?
7:30pm
VHONG NAVARRO is
MARS RAVELO'S
LASTIKMAN
Parating na ang superhero ng bayan!
May bagong eksena sa love story nina Terrence at Emerald! Si Cassie, kaibigan o kaaway?
Ysabella
Ano'ng mangyayari kapag nalaman na ni Ysay na ang kinilala niyang si Andrew ay si Albert pala?
Natutulog Ba ang Diyos?
Malalaman na ba nina Gillian at Andrew ang lahat ng lihim? Abangan ang nalalapit na pagtatapos
Abangan Mamaya! Sunday's Best Presents KC From Paris to Pinas
10PM
Samahan si KC Concepcion sa City of Lights hanggang sa pagbalik niya sa Pinas!
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Love, violence in the language of Javier Bardem

HE WON Best Actor twice at the Venice Film Festival

RUBEN NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—IT WAS ENTRANCING to hear Javier Bardem speak in our recent press con with him at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.

While Javier was blurting out words in English, a language he is learning to master, he was speaking from his Spanish heart and mind. His answers were passionate, sometimes surprising, and definitely not generic.

One of the few actors to win the Best Actor Award twice at the Venice Film Festival, Javier was quoted as saying about his English fluency in a different interview: "I'm getting more comfortable, but it will never get to the point as if you are doing it in your own language. When I say 'I love you' or 'I hate you' in Spanish, many things come to my mind, aspects of my own life. When I say it in English, I don't have the memories."

We guess it helps that his English coach is his long-time girlfriend, Cristina Pales, a translator in Spain. "We have many of our lessons in bed," said the first Spaniard to earn an Academy Award nomination, for his role as Cuban poet and dissident Reinaldo Arenas in "Before Night Falls." That performance and his riveting turn as a quadriplegic in "The Sea Inside" won him the two awards in Venice.

He may figure prominently in the next awards season for his portrayal of a drug world killer in the Coen brothers' adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's book, "No Country for Old Men." Javier's character is so sinister that he is described as having no sense of humor. But that precisely is what causes some nervous titter in some scenes. The film is one of the

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

best we've seen this year. Joel and Ethan, whose credits include "Fargo" and "O Brother Where Art Thou," once again come up with an inventive film, which also stars Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones.

Javier reportedly beat Johnny Depp for the role of Florentino Ariza in the much-awaited movie version of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera," which is considered by some as one of the most beautiful love stories ever written.

What was it like to be directed by two directors who are brothers?

Dealing with one director is a big task in itself. With two, you can just imagine. But the amazing thing about working with the Coen brothers is that you never feel like you're dealing with two different people. It's like one person is giving instructions. There was never a struggle or contradiction in their statements or wishes. They are very easy and funny. With all this horror that I have to do, and sometimes I have my problems, the brothers were always bringing humor to the set in order to relieve the tension.

Your character is evil but your haircut is funny. How was that haircut arrived at? And what was your reaction when you first saw this haircut?

When I arrived in Santa Fe, I knew more or less the road to take with that character. But there were a lot of unanswered questions. There was not a lot of physical description of the character in the book. So the first question of the Coens was, "How do you want to look?" I said, "I don't know."

Paul (LeBlanc), the hair stylist who is a genius, said, "Come here for a second." He started cutting my hair and in two minutes, he did this whole horror of a haircut. We were in the makeup trailer. The Coens laughed. Ethan almost fell onto the floor laughing. I said, "What's wrong? I need a mirror." When I saw myself in the mirror, I was shocked. I said, "Okay, now I have 50 percent of the character. I just have to put the other 50 percent." That's how good a professional like Paul can be. He had an image in his mind for my character. He did half of my work.

It was a curse, though, because I had to wake up every day with that hair (laughter). I was working only one or two days per week. The rest of the week, I was free, walking with that hair. No matter what you do, how much grease you put on that hair, it always stayed the same shape (laughter). The Coens owe me.

Did you ever dream you would be in a Coen brothers movie someday?

They have done deeply American movies. Being a Spanish actor, I thought it was impossible for me to ever work with them. But a miracle happened. They called. I was pinching myself, saying, "I can't believe that I may work with the Coens." But I wasn't familiar with Cormac McCarthy's work. I read the script and I was like, "Oh, my God, that's too wild." I flew to New York to talk to the Coens. I said, "Listen, I don't drive, my English is not that good and I hate violence. I don't know if I'm the right guy for this movie (laughter)." They said, "That's why we want you (laughter)." I started to laugh. I said, "You are totally nuts." They answered, "We are the Coens."

I said to myself, "I can't miss this opportunity." I knew that behind the violent story, there's a huge statement against violence. If anybody can pull that off, it will be the Coens. But I have to say that I had my problems. I've only done two movies where I kill people. This one, and another called "Perdita Durango." Holding a gun is not something that I particularly like. But this movie shows how violence creates pain and misery. Violence doesn't solve things—it only destroys.

This is a very violent character. How did you cope with such a dark role?

For my own sake, thank God, the Coens created a nice, calm peaceful and funny atmosphere. If the set was filled with tension, then I would have had a hard time because I don't particularly like killing people (laughter). One of the things that shocked me was how American culture involves so much familiarity with guns. On the set, almost everyone knew about the caliber of the guns, how they work, their names. I was like, "What the hell (laughter)?" Where I come from, we are not obsessed with guns.

> 'The good thing about playing bad is you realize how far you are from being bad'

The Coens told us that you turned out to be a very good shooter. Did holding a gun push buttons in you?

I had to learn because the guy is supposed to be a good shooter. I went to this shooting gallery and ... I was like shooting with one eye closed. The guy training me was like, "What the hell? Have you done this?" I said, "No." I guess the reason I did well was, I had no tension about wanting to do it well.

When I grab one of those horrible things, I am supposed to feel power but I felt weak. Something's wrong about a man with a gun; it's not natural.

One of this film's themes is retribution. Do you get even when someone does you wrong or do you easily forgive?

I'm very good at forgiving. Not forgetting but forgiving. You can't forget because to forget is like putting a wall to the memory that is going to teach

LOVE/ H4

JCI-MANILA
UNIVERSITY OF

"Training future leaders is a hard task, but Sun makes our job easier by keeping us all connected at 50% less the cost."

Junior Chamber International-Manila (Manila Jaycees) President, Louie Basilio

The country has changed a lot since the Manila Jaycees held its first organizational meeting sixty years ago. But its character has stayed consistent – it continues to be seen as a "University of Leaders", with its members as its students, leadership development as its curriculum and, the world as its campus.

And Sun, of course, keeps them all together.

The Manila Jaycees was organized to help each member reach new heights in their respective careers and become leaders in their communities. Sun now helps them carry out their plans of success. With most members choosing Sun, communication is easier, faster and more convenient. Reminders regarding community development projects, skill development programs and seminars are easily circulated via text-messaging.

"We can be in touch with members anywhere, all the time," says Manila Jaycees President, Louie Basilio. "There's no need to cut calls short. No need to worry about texting too much. For urgent meetings, we can even teleconference because of the truly unlimited calls of Sun! We save a lot of time and money, thanks to Sun."

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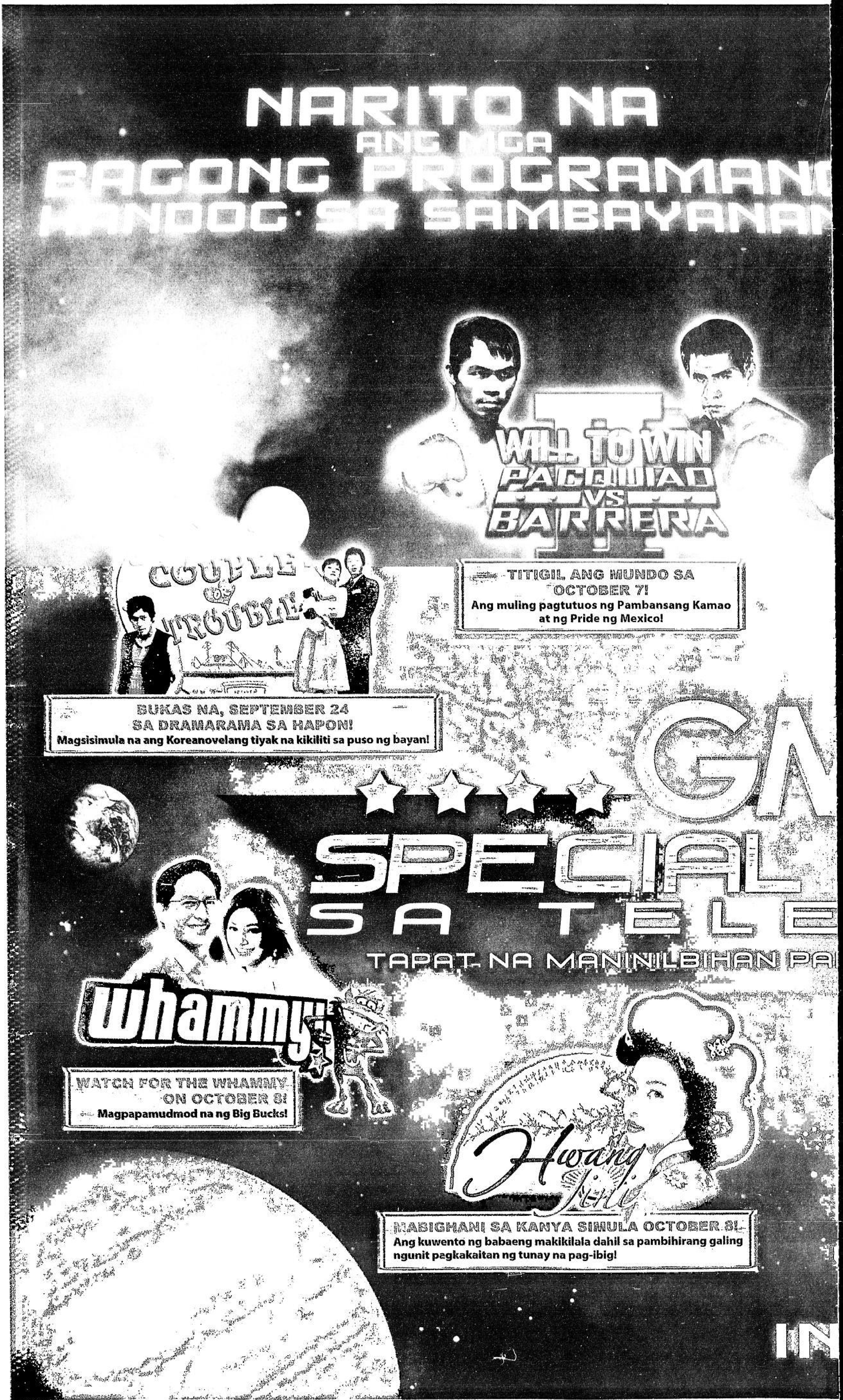
WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO
VS
BARRERA
II
COUPLE OR TROUBLE
whammy!
Hwang Jini

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HANDOG SA SAMBAYANAN

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Ang muling pagtutuos ng Pambansang Kamao at ng Pride ng Mexico!

BUKAS NA, SEPTEMBER 24 SA DRAMARAMA SA HAPON!
Magsisimula na ang Koreanovelang tiyak na kikiliti sa puso ng bayan!

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TAPAT NA MANINILBIHAN PA

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Magpapamudmod na ng Big Bucks!

MABIGHANI SA KANYA SIMULA OCTOBER 8!
Ang kuwento ng babaeng makikilala dahil sa pambihirang galing ngunit pagkakaitan ng tunay na pag-ibig!

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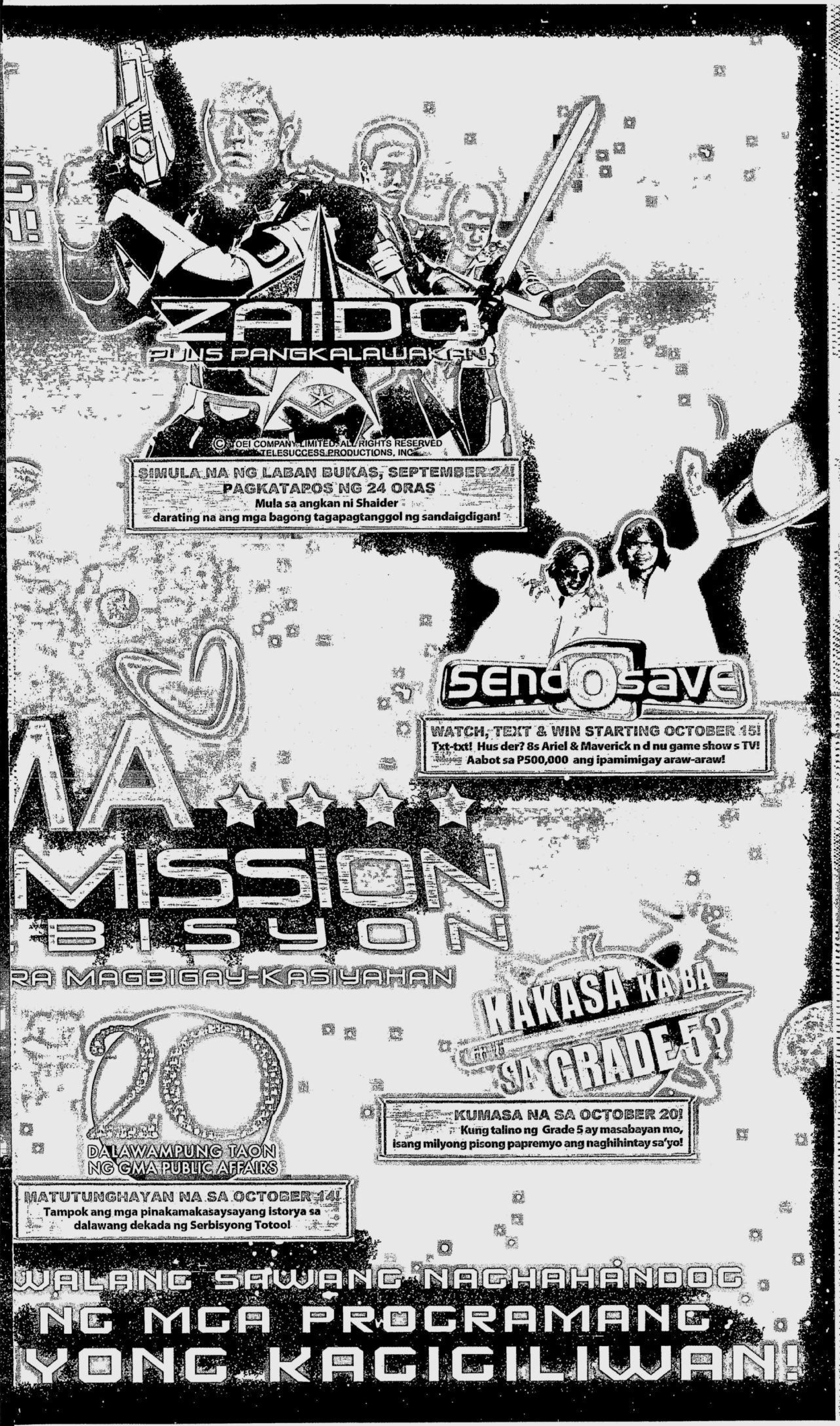
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WALANG SAWANG NAGHAHANDOG
NG MGA PROGRAMANG
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MATUTUNGHAYAN NA SA OCTOBER 14!
Tampok ang mga pinakamakasaysayang istorya sa
dalawang dekada ng Serbisyong Totoo!

Evil kid flick familiar yet suspenseful

REVIEW

NEW YORK—A long lineage of evil-child movies — from "The Bad Seed" to "The Exorcist" to "The Omen" — has spawned "Joshua," which is at once familiar and yet startlingly inventive and thrilling.

The feature debut from director and co-writer George Ratliff, best known for the documentary "Hell House," is a tantalizing, tense thriller in the most genteel of settings, which adds to the suspense.

Hedge fund manager Brad Cairn (Sam Rockwell) and his wife, Abby (Vera Farmiga), have just brought their newborn daughter home to their high-rise apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side when strange things begin happening.

The baby won't stop crying and Abby can't sleep; in her increasingly fragile state, she turns reluctantly to pills for comfort. Then she starts feeling paranoid, and Farmiga makes it seem as if she's slowly losing her grasp on reality, right before your eyes.

Most of the action takes place inside the apartment, and Ratliff makes great use of its long, dark hallway. There's also construction going on upstairs, and the incessant buzzing and pounding add to the sense of claustrophobia.

In the middle of all this turmoil is the couple's 9-year-old son, Joshua (played by the subtly creepy Jacob Kogan), a serious, sensitive boy with a talent for the piano and a flair for the dramatic. He always seems to be around when horrific events occur but he never seems directly responsible.

Haunting cinematography

We know better — or at least we know enough to be suspicious.

What makes "Joshua" different, besides the haunting cinematography from Benoit Debie with its deep reds and blues, is the way Ratliff and co-writer David Gilbert have developed their characters. The parents don't just stand by feebly while their world disintegrates — they react like real people. And Joshua isn't obviously menacing from the start. He just seems understandably jealous and a little sad.

He's a bit of a misfit with his perfect hair, impeccably preppy clothes and intellectual curiosity beyond his years. It kinda makes you feel sorry for him — for a while, at least.

"Do you ever feel weird about me, your weird son?" Joshua asks one night as his dad is tucking him into bed. Brad reacts supportively, lovingly, the way any good father would. But Rockwell, who's made a career out of characters on the edge of reason, gives the role more nuance than you might expect. He offers a hint at what Brad was like before he was someone's husband and father — back when he was still fun and maybe a little crazy.

Celia Weston is doting and eerie at the same time as Brad's know-it-all mother, Hazel, a born-again Christian who wants the baby to be baptized, much to the annoyance of Abby, who's Jewish.

Sporadic support

And Dallas Roberts makes the most of sporadic supporting appearances as Abby's gay brother, Ned, a Broadway producer who supports Joshua's obvious musical talent. He's also the first to recognize what's going on when Joshua intentionally mangles "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" during a school concert.

The moment is chilling. But if "Joshua" doesn't frighten you, it'll at least make you think twice about having kids.

AP

VERA Farmiga and Jacob Kogan in "Joshua"

Love, violence in the language ...

From page H1

you how to overcome that situation. Forgiving is important. Like when I forgive you, I forgive the human race, my own human mistakes.

Is there anything good about playing bad?

The only thing good about playing bad is that you realize how far you are from being bad. You feel better about yourself (laughter).

You and Josh bonded deeply while making this movie. Why did the two of you click so well?

I am so happy to have the chance to know Josh because aside from being a great actor, he's a great human being. He helped keep my feet on the ground. This is my first American movie, with an American crew, in an American landscape. I was the only foreigner on the set. Nobody ever made me feel like a stranger but you feel a bit detached. There was a moment when I was totally lost, like emotionally numb. Josh saw it and he took me out of there.

SERIOUS GUY, FUNNY HAIRCUT. Javier Bardem is anything but comic in the Coen brothers' dark drama, "No Country for Old Men."

You did the film adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera" this year. When did you read the novel?

When I was 14 years old— I'm 38 now. I was too young to read that book. But I realized how good a love story it was even though I wasn't familiar yet with what love means. But I was truly passionate about the book.

When I heard that Mike Newell was going to do the movie, and there was a possibility of me playing Florentino Ariza, the main character, I had to be there. I liked the challenge of doing the whole journey of a man from when he was 20 years old to 75 years old, whose goal for 57 years is to win the love of a woman. I haven't seen the finished movie but I know that we worked hard. We approached the movie in a very humble way. We didn't pretend to bring Garcia Marquez into the movie. If we were able to capture a little bit of the book's flavor, that would be enough.

Can you comment on the wave of Spanish talents in the international cinema? Who do you credit for this influx?

Every Spanish actor and actress is indebted to Antonio Banderas. He was the man who worked his back learning a foreign language and paved the way for Spanish actors. We owe him, Penelope (Cruz) and (Pedro) Almodovar.

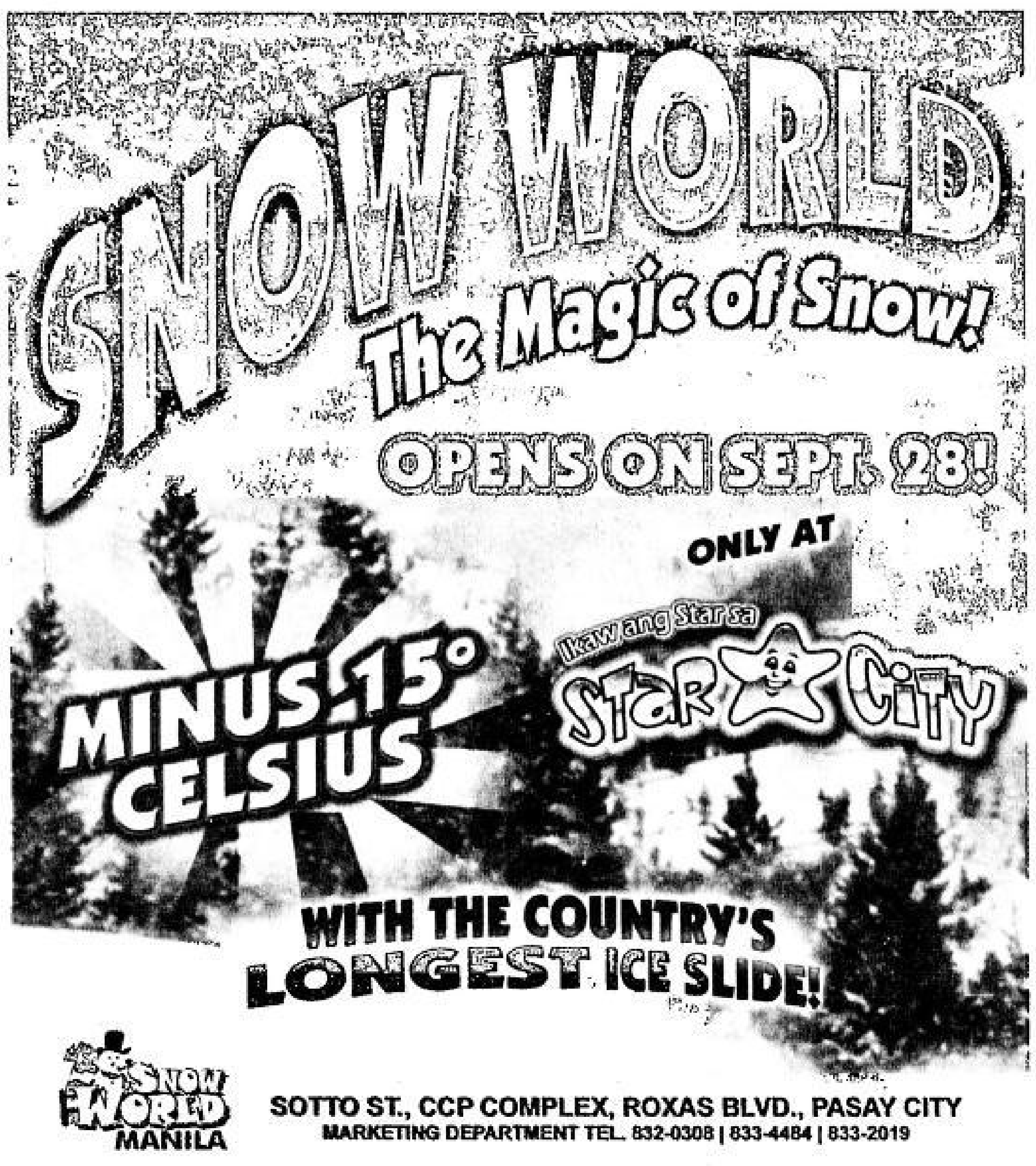
Fifteen years ago, when you broke out with "Jamon, Jamon," if we told you that someday you will be nominated in the Oscars, work with Woody Allen and the Coens and act more in English than Spanish movies, what would have been your reaction?

I would have thought that you were totally nuts.

Now many Spanish actors want to be Javier Bardem.

It's not that they all want to be Javier Bardem because then it will be a disaster (laughter). But they realize that people who film in Spain like Woody Allen, Milos Forman and Steven Soderbergh go back home and say, "Wow, those Spanish actors are great." We have to forget the feeling of inferiority that we sometimes carry.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



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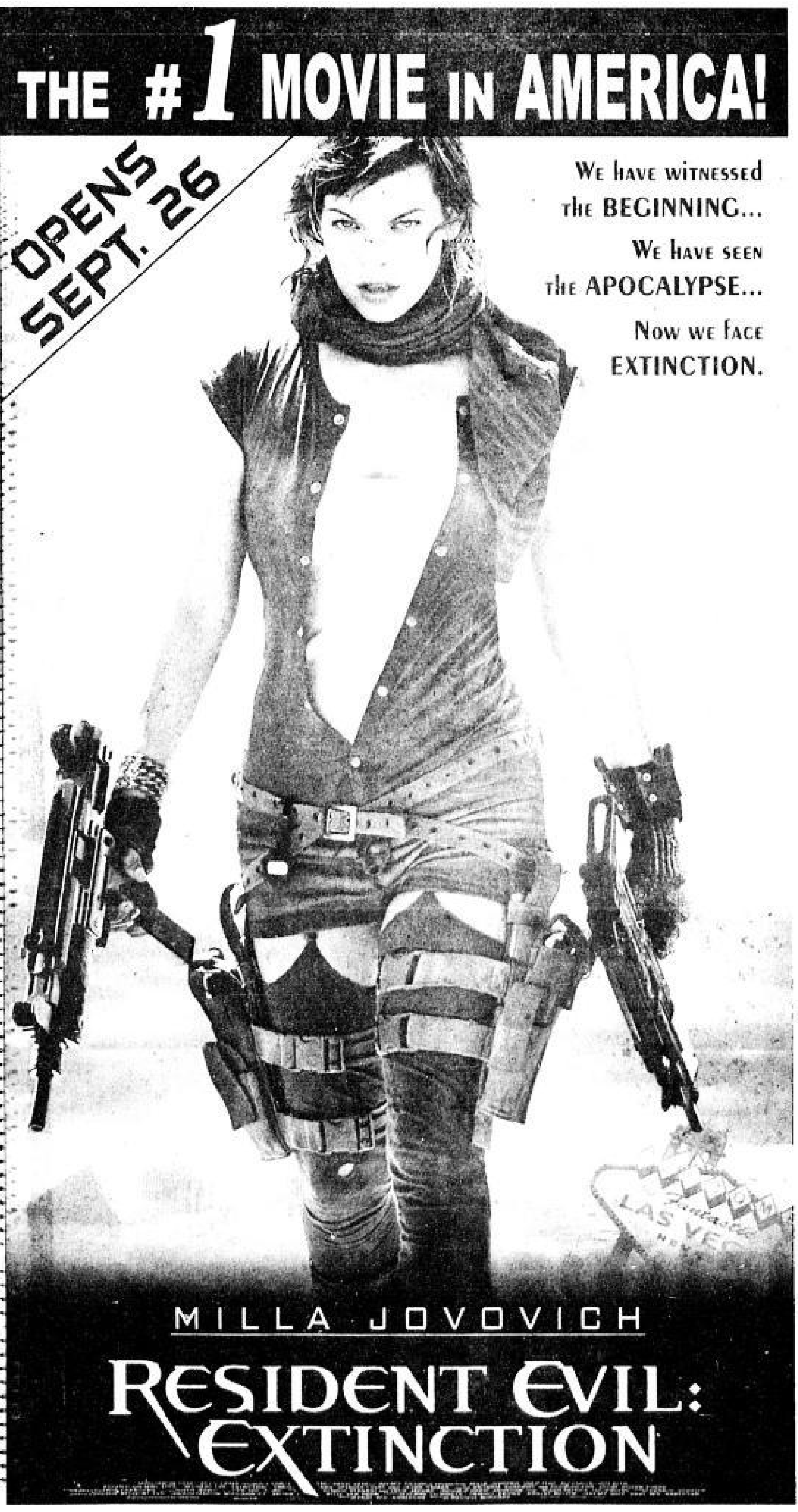

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
OPENS SEPT. 26
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
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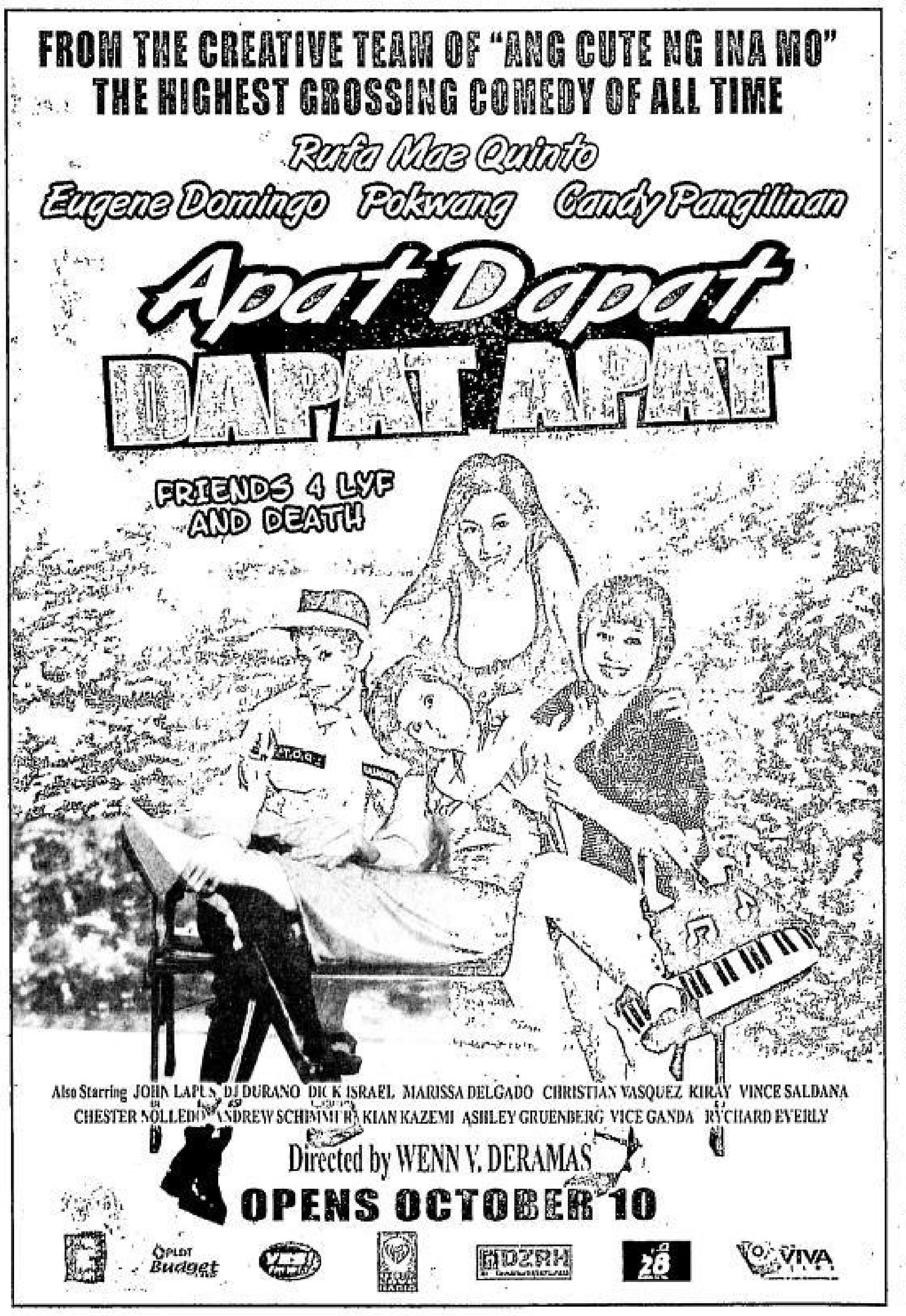

FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM OF "ANG CUTE NG INA MO"
THE HIGHEST GROSSING COMEDY OF ALL TIME
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURANO DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY VINCE SALDANA CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RYCHARD EVERLY
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
OPENS OCTOBER 10
PLDT Budget
DZRH
28
VIVA

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquire

Website: www.inquirer.ne

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inquirer life name/age/city/messa
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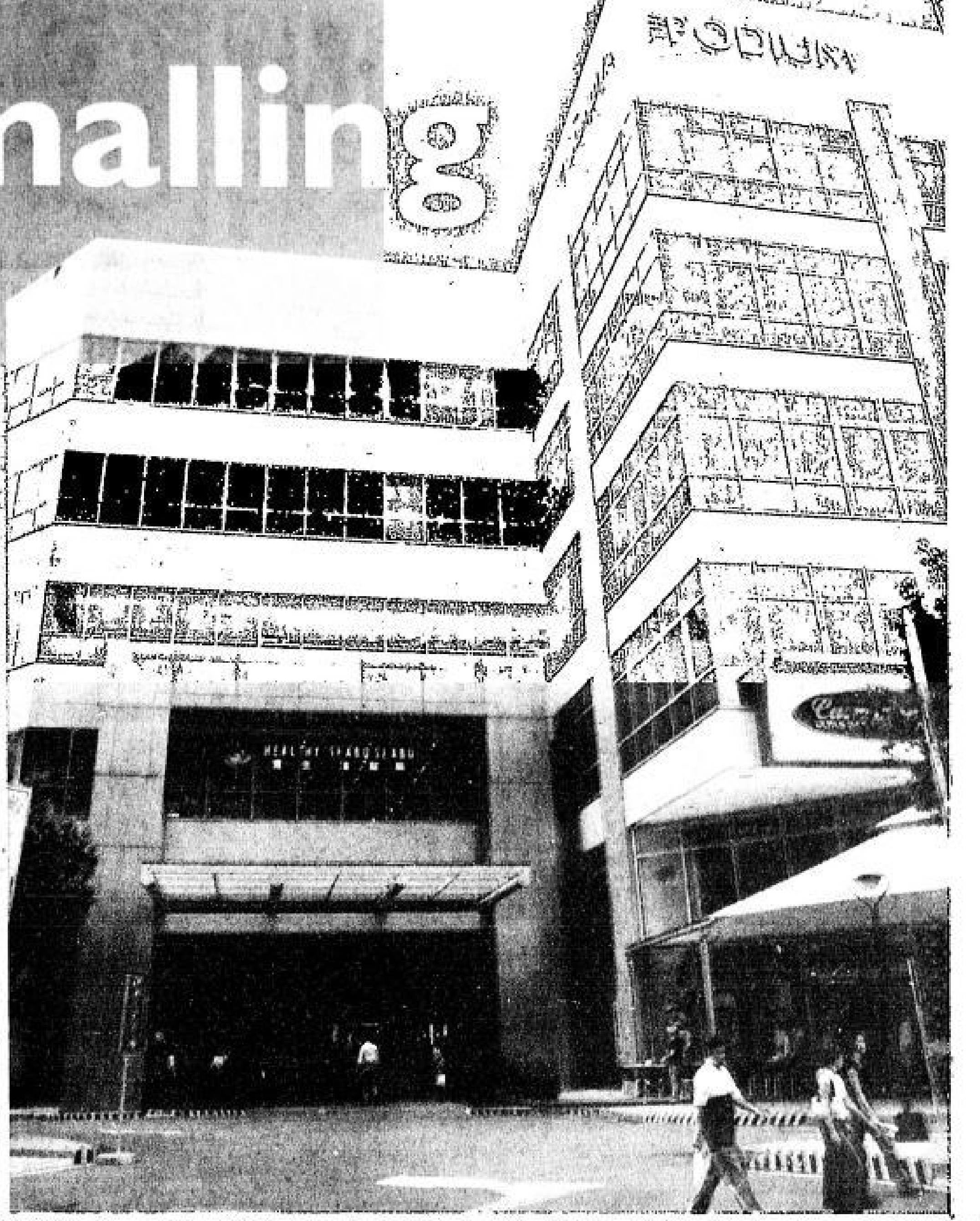
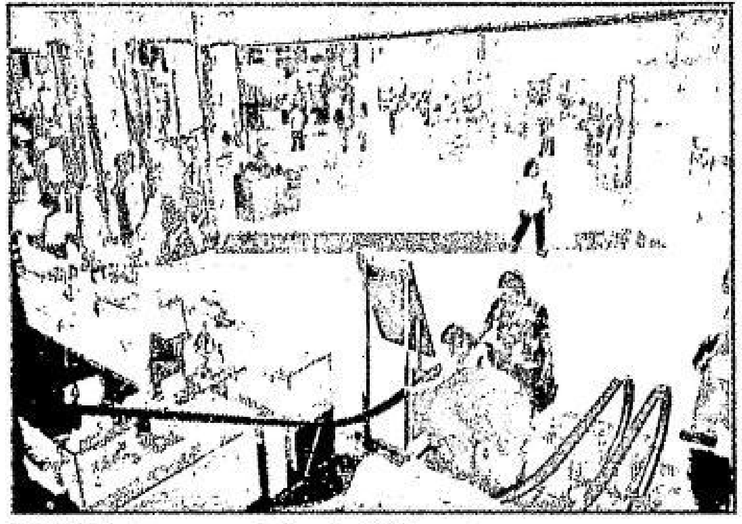
Cozy, classy malling

Enjoy the shopping convenience of having the top brands and your favorite restaurants all under one roof at The Podium

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada and Jim Guiao Punzalan


THE Podium at 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

THE Lounge activity center


SEVEN-hectare area, six levels, 180 tenants

REMINISCENT OF POSH MALLS abroad, The Podium in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City corners the growing high-income bracket shoppers that its sister mall, SM Megamall, has left untouched.

Known before as the parking area for SM Megamall customers, the Keppel-SM joint project, which opened in 2002, aims to give upscale retail shoppers a different experience.

"The Podium serves the A and upper B segments. Included in the customer demographics are the businessmen and women of the Ortigas business district and the young urban professionals in the vicinity," says Christian Mathay, mall manager.

Surrounded by the Asian Development Bank, Linden and Discovery Suites, and a stone's throw from office employees of JMT and Benguet Centre as well as the restaurants of El Pueblo, the 7-hectare Podium has six floors of 180 tenants, including kiosks and carts.

The Podium houses apparel shops, fine leather and luggage, specialty shoe shops, accessories and jewelry, sporting goods, specialty shops, restaurants/food stalls, home furnishings, health and beauty shops, IT/gadget shops, books/music and video, art galleries, entertainment centers, banking and service shops.

The most recent additions include The Ramp (fashion apparel for men, women, young adults and children), Sebastian's Ice Cream Studio (gourmet ice cream in unique flavors) and Opera Fine Art Gallery.

According to Mathay, a three-day sale on Sept. 28-30 will offer up to 70-percent discounts on fashion apparel and other items and food.

The Podium's two cinemas has 150 seats each, with facilities like wheelchair ramps for disabled persons. Ample parking is available. The mall is open on weekends, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Restaurants at the exterior ground floor are open until 1:30 a.m.

Enjoy the shopping convenience of having all the top brands and your favorite restaurants all under one roof—The Podium way.

Continental club

The Podium is the place to go for specialty European cuisine

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

THE PODIUM REMAINS ONE OF ORTIGAS CENTER'S GREAT EATING places. Paella, crabs, roast chicken, grilled lamb, Greek sandwiches, kebabs, smoked salmon and crepes are only a few of the specialties to be savored in various restaurants during your visit.

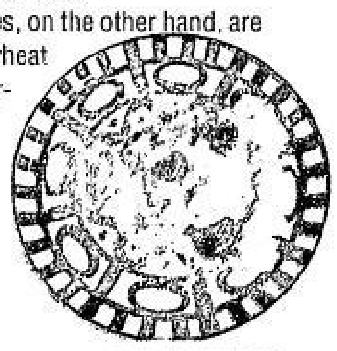
Café Breton

CAFÉ
Breton
Cafe
Liegeois

Everyone who appreciates fantastic crepes knows he or she can always have it at Café Breton.

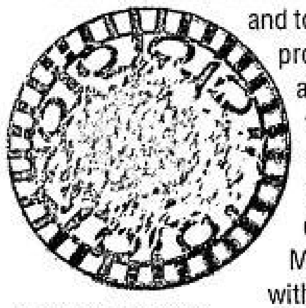
Café Breton has been known for its savoury and dessert crepes. Served as main course, savoury crepes are made of buckwheat flour and filled with meat, sausages, seafood and vegetables.

Dessert crepes, on the other hand, are made of white wheat flour and are perfect with fruits, sweet sauces and topped with nuts and whipped cream.


STRAWBERRY Short Crepe

Established in 1998, Café Breton now has nine outlets at The Podium (tel. 6875971), Mall of Asia, TriNoma, Greenbelt, Pasong Tamo, Westgate, Tomas Morato, Tagaytay and Sta. Rosa.

Aside from crepes, Café Breton's other bestsellers are Hamburcrepe (burger patty on a bed of spinach, sautéed mushrooms, cheese and topped with tomato provencal), Lost Paradise (stewed apples with cinnamon, vanilla ice cream and raisins marinated in rum), Breton Mozzarella Burger with side salad, Chicken Kun (chicken breast fillet topped with asparagus and cheese sauce on whole wheat toast), cold and hot coffees.


HAMBURCREPE

MARIELA Luna (far right), owner and interior designer of Cafe Breton, with cook supervisors Tammy Alcantara and Adel Deona

Café Mediterranean

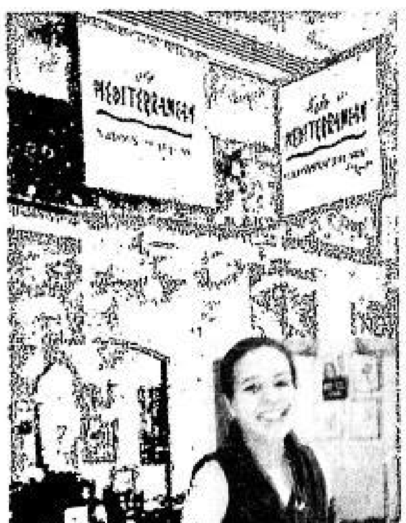
An oasis of gourmet offerings, Café Mediterranean Flavors of the Sun (tel. 6317297) was established in 1994. Aside from the 50-seater Podium outlet, the restaurant has seven other branches in Makati, Rockwell, Quezon City, Alabang, Mall of Asia, Boracay and Davao.

There's no nicer way to while away an afternoon or evening than with Greek Little Plates (pita bread, garbanzo hummus, black olive tapenade, cucumber tzatziki, baba ghanoush, falafel, meatballs and tabbouleh). If you're looking for real pizza, the restaurant's chef transforms flour, cheese, tomatoes, ham and sausages into magnificent creations: Margherita, Greca, Mediterranea, Ragu and New York.

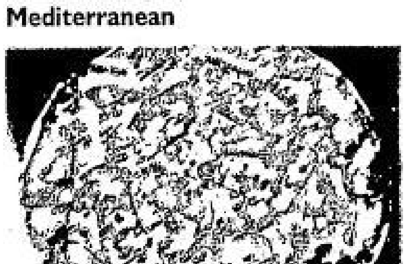
Soups, salads, stews, Greek sandwiches, panini with fries, smoked salmon, chicken, burger, pasta, fish, lamb, kebabs and desserts are also proffered.

"What the restaurant offers is Mediterranean cuisine given a contemporary twist. It's not fusion," emphasizes Marla Tañada, owner of Café Mediterranean.

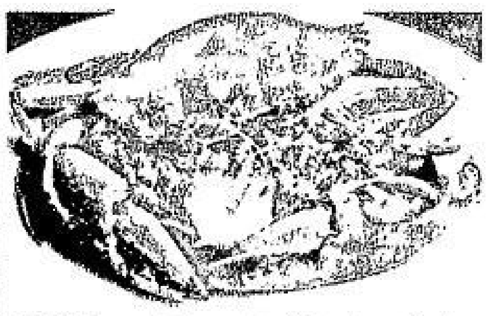
With Café Mediterranean serving plates of Mediterranean food at reasonable prices, Tañada expressed confidence in the diner's continued success because "the Filipino palate has become diverse and is now open to a lot of experimentations."

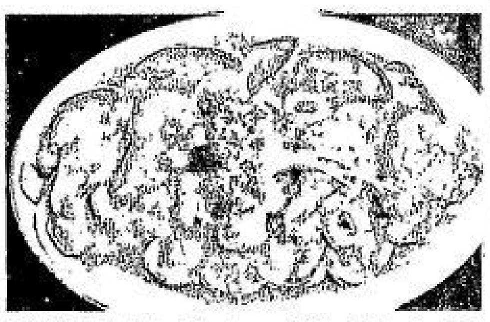


MARLA Tañada, owner of Cafe Mediterranean


GRECA Pizza

MEDITERRANEAN Pasta


CASA Armas' Cangrejos (Thanlong Style King Crab)


ZARZUELA de Mariscos (Mixed Seafoods)

Casa Armas

Casa Armas
Tapas Bar y Restaurante

A good restaurant to begin your food trip in is Casa Armas Tapas Bar Y Restaurante (tels. 6873663/6873370). Located at the ground floor, it's a fine-dining place where great Spanish cuisine can be had for a good price. The rustic design of the 120-seater restaurant is reminiscent of a Spanish bistro or taberna.

Jesus Armas put up the first Casa Armas in 1995 in Malate, Manila. "What he wanted was to create a nice, cozy atmosphere that felt upscale but not stuffy, so diners could come often," says Lorraine Lim Aguila, who owns and manages the franchise outlets at The Podium, Greenbelt and Jupiter in Makati with her sister Lora Rodrigo.

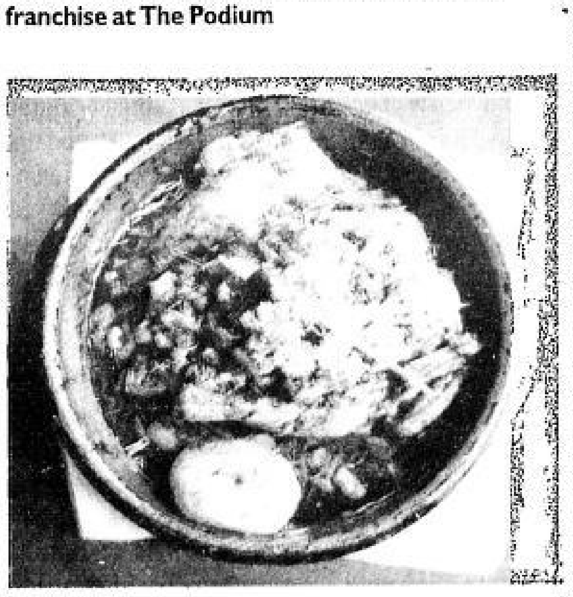
For Armas, cooking in a contemporary Spanish style in a country where most people's knowledge of classic Spanish cuisine begins and ends with paella was almost a daring act.

"Señor Armas offered his home country's regional dishes as well as updated classics. I can say that he was the one who started the paella, lengua, callos, boquerones and tapas craze in the restaurant business," Aguila says.

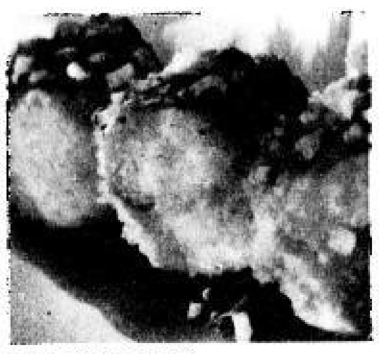
The restaurant's bestsellers include Snipe Bird Adobo Flakes, Lengua Estofado, Callos, Paella Valenciana, Paella Negra, Roast Baby Pig, Roast Chicken, Tabla Casa Armas Especial, Croquetas de Pollo, Croquetas de Jamon, Angus Beef Steak and Churros con Chocolate.

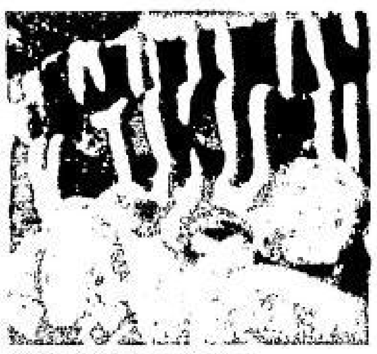
For people who love food, says Aguila, Spanish cuisine is all about flavor and the joys of eating. "It's a way of enjoying life by sharing good moments and tastes with friends."

LORRAINE Lim Aguila, owner of Casa Armas franchise at The Podium


ASADO de Pollo Ensu Jugo (Roast Chicken)

Fuss-less good eats


PINOYDON Tofu


SESAME Prawn Salad

BANANA Surprise (maruya fritter topped with vanilla ice cream and chocolate syrup)

Podium establishments provide a relaxed ambience for people who simply want to enjoy their food

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE PODIUM PROMISES-AND delivers-a new casual dining experience for diners who want to eat well but do not need all the fuss.

Pinoydon

Right next to Fuzion is the Pinoydon (tel. 6311198) that serves Filipino dishes cooked the Japanese way.

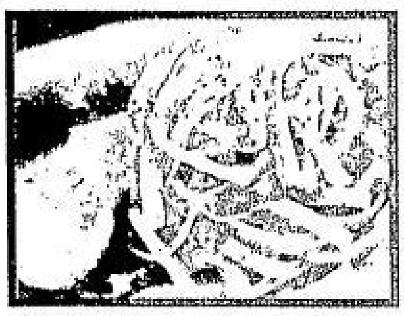
With green, simple interiors, the 70-seater restaurant opened its first branch in 2002.

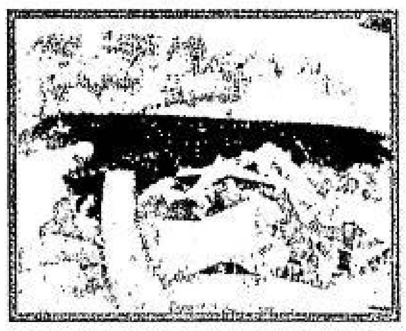
It offers Pinoy rice bowls (in generous servings), salads, noodles/pasta and desserts. It also serves Pinoysushi (Filipinized sushi rolls).

Following the Donburi style of cooking, Pinoydon uses Filipino breakfast favorites to create such innovative dishes as Bistekdon, Adobodon (pork and chicken adobo varieties), Cornydon (corned beef *guisado* with potatoes and eggs); Bellydon (*bangus* belly); Tocidon (*tocino*), Longidon (*longganisa*) and Tapadon.

FUZION
Smoothies

Fuzion Smoothie Café


CREAMY Seafood Pasta


FUZION Club Sandwich with fries

KOREAN Braised Beef

You can start your culinary adventure at the fifth level's Singapore-based Fuzion Smoothie Café. The leading smoothie chain in Asia has over 12 branches in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines.

Husband and wife Jerome Uy and Meredith Ngo, who bought the master franchise for the Philippines, opened the first café in 2005 at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Center.

The café offers smoothies without ice and sugar. It is the first in the country to serve smoothies made entirely from fruits and aloe nectar.

"What makes the frosty beverage sweet and cold is the blend of blast-frozen fruits and chilled aloe nectar," said Lizette Abadicio, vice president for marketing. "So, it's healthy and delicious."

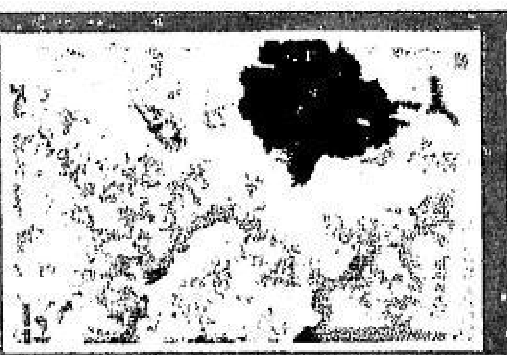
Aside from smoothies in different exciting flavors, the café also offers pastas, sandwiches, salads, pizzas, Asian Jumbowls (rice meals), and the South Beach Diet Grills for health-conscious diners.

Fuzion has now six company-owned local branches and a franchise café which opened recently in TriNoma.

Kitaro

Another restaurant that serves affordable Japanese dishes is Kitaro (5/L of The Podium, tel. 6338161).

From a sushi-to-go with only three tables and a counter when it opened its first outlet beside the entrance gate of White Plains Subdivision in Quezon City, Kitaro now has over 44 branches all over the country.


SHRIMP Tempura

KITARO's Chicken Teriyaki

CALIFORNIA Maki

Though sushi is the main offering, there is also a wide selection of sashimi: tuna, salmon, uni (sea urchin), kani maki (rolled rice with sweet omelet, crabstick, tuna, seafood, mangoes, cucumber, pickled ginger); noodles (ramen and udon in soup, stir-fried soba and udon); and rice toppings: Sukiyakidon, Yakinikudon, Tuna Teriyakidon, Katsudon and Oyakodon.

Kitaro also has Bento Meals (for budget-conscious diners) and Party Trays (an assortment of sushi in a platter), ideal for home and office gatherings.

MEAT Lovers Pizza

NYPD

If you do not go for Japanese food, then try the popular New York Pizza Delivery (NYPD) also on the fifth level beside The Podium Cinemas. The NYPD Podium branch was launched in May under a new management.

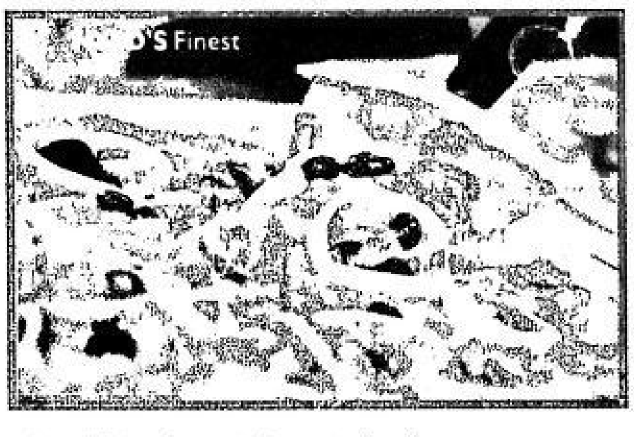
The pizza place caters to a young market. The place usually gets the "after" crowd—afternoon, after movies and, yes, after-meal. "They're [really] our target market. We've been receiving good feedback from many Podium-goers," said Paulette See, owner and managing director of NYPD Pizza Delivery Corporation. "This is why we're challenged to continue what was started."

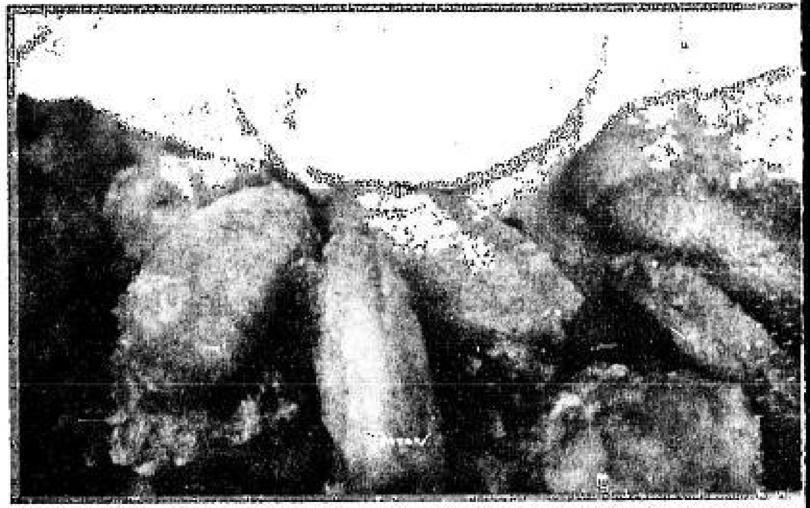
At NYPD, diners are assured of "a combination of excellent food and impeccable service," said See.

The company is known for its gourmet pizza. "We make our thin crust pizza from scratch to ensure freshness," she said. Some ingredients are imported while others are delivered fresh daily.

The restaurant's bestsellers include the Meat Lovers Pizza, the NYPD's Finest (pizza with sausage, salami, bell peppers and olives), Buffalo wings and the Baked Ziti.

NYPD's delivery hotline is 6316973.




BUFFALO Wing

BAKED Ziti

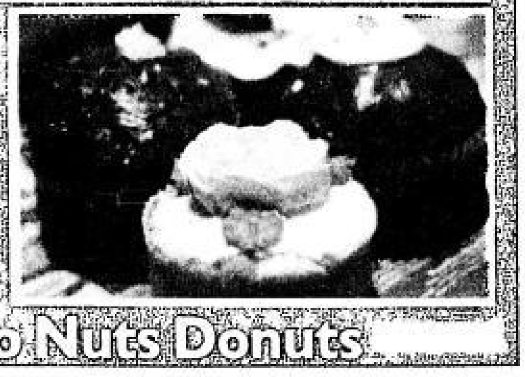
Sweet dreams are made of these

From doughnuts to crepe, ice cream to ensaymada, The Podium has almost everything for dessert lovers

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE SWEETS AND DESSERT should constitute another food group may find The Podium exactly the place for them.

GO NUTS DONUTS


GO Nuts Donuts' delicious cupcakes

Go Nuts Donuts

A quick sugar fix is always available at Go Nuts Donuts.

But even those who have to watch their sugar will still find something to like at the doughnut company. It introduced recently the first-of-its-kind Go Nuts Lite, no-sugar doughnut with the same melt-in-your-mouth quality as regular items. The doughnut has less than a gram of sugar, lower net carbohydrate count and high fiber content.

Go Nuts Donuts has its own line of espresso, flavored coffees and frozen blends called Mad Brews. Must-try are the Kooky Koolers that mimic popular doughnut flavors like Go Nuts Donuts' signature Amazing Glaze and the popular Pastillas de Leche.

Some four months ago the company introduced another innovation, the Go Nuts Donuts Cupcakes. Made from high-quality ingredients—callebaut milk chocolate, pure Belgian sweet cream butter, farm fresh eggs, they use old-fashioned no-shortcut recipes.

Go Nuts Donuts Cupcakes have moist and delicate cake base and have a longer shell life than any other baked cupcake in the market. Flavors are Hazelnut Crunch, Buttercrunch Toffee and Scream Cheese.

Go Nuts Donuts now has a total of 36 outlets around the country.

LORD STOW'S BAKERY

Lord Stow's

On the third level is Macau's famous Lord Stow's, known for its egg tarts. Described by some as little pieces of heaven, the tarts perfectly bring together color, texture and flavor. Yellow cream filling slightly burnt on top is placed inside the flakiest, crispiest pastry.

Known as *pasteis de nata* in Portugal where they originated, they evolved into their present form through the efforts of Englishman named Andrew Stow and are now available in Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan.

In Metro Manila, Stow teamed up with Just Simple Bake House Inc. to make the famous egg tarts available to Filipinos.

The egg tarts are best eaten within six hours after purchase. They are also delicious eaten cold from the fridge. But if you wish to re-heat the tarts, use the oven (not microwave), cooking at 200 minutes.

Lord Stow's also offers cheesecakes, freshly-baked *pandesal* and sandwiches.

LORD Stow's famous egg tarts

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Old reliables serve filling, low-cost meals

Familiar names remain the major crowd drawers at The Podium

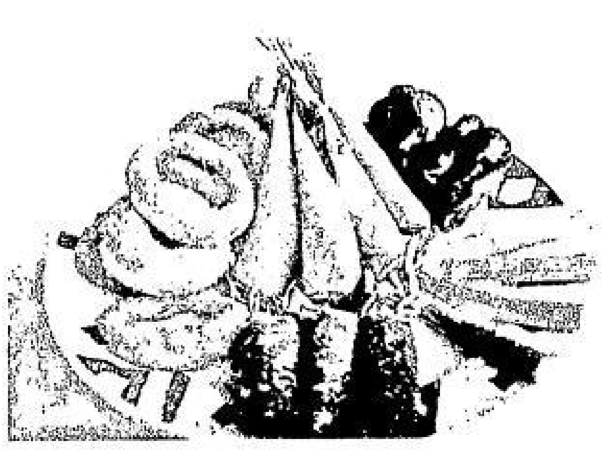
Text by Mary Ann I. Rañola
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

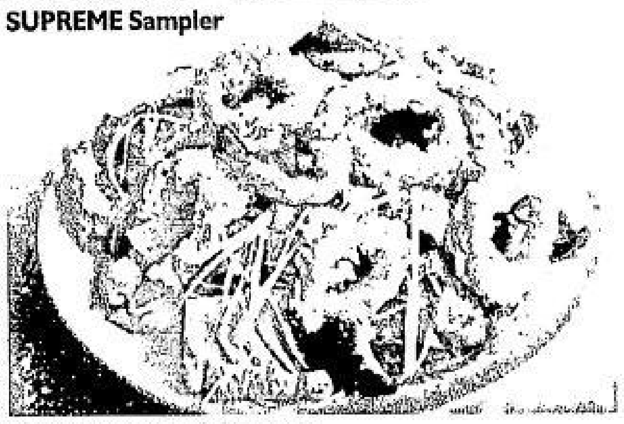
YOU ONLY HAVE TO FOLLOW THE CROWD if you cannot decide where you want to eat at The Podium.

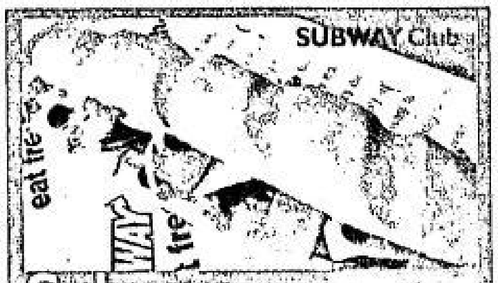
Burgoo

Burgoo (tel. 6875254), an all-American diner, has become a favorite with *barkada* and families because of its hefty servings. With a seating capacity of 200, Burgoo is designed to accommodate large groups although a function room is also available for parties and special events.

Highly recommended for first-timers and regular customers alike is the Supreme Sampler (P385), a combination of Buffalo wings, spring rolls, mozzarella sticks and onion rings. For the weight conscious, Burgoo offers Seafood Caesar Supreme (P215), another bestseller; and Linguini with Clams (P165).


SUPREME Sampler


SEAFOOD Caesar Supreme



Subway

People in a hurry may just have to grab a sandwich on the go at the Subway bar, as The Podium branch can only seat eight and every single one is almost always occupied.

Located right beside the cinemas, Subway is easily the favorite and most convenient stopover for moviegoers. Not only are the sandwiches affordable and filling, they are also healthy—their edge over other snack bars.

Customers get to choose the dressing and bread they want for their sandwiches that are prepared right before them in a jiffy.

Its bestseller is Subway Club (P155 regular six-inch sandwich), consisting of roast beef, chicken ham, pork ham, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, onions, jalapeño and black olives. If you want it foot-long, just add P80.

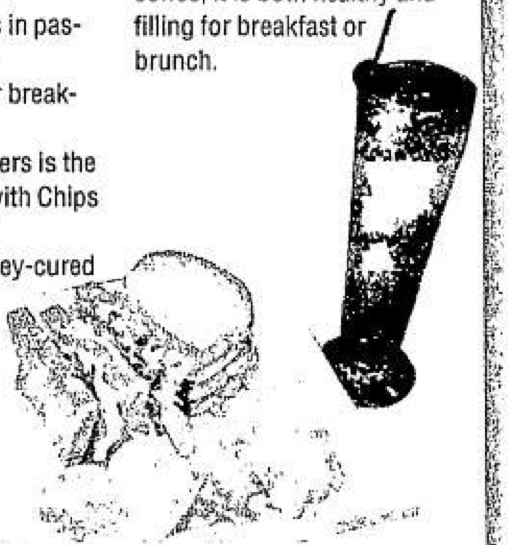
For a complete meal, which includes a large drink and a choice between two cookies or a bag of chips, add P45.

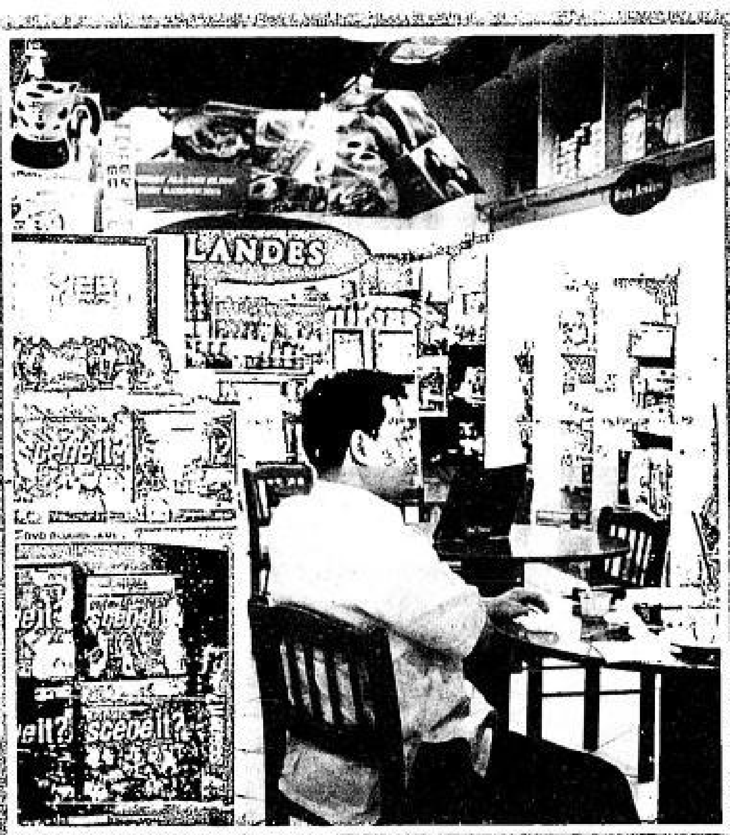
HAM and Egg Tray

Delifrance

For those who go for light but filling meals, Delifrance would be a good choice. It is a cozy café located on the ground floor of The Podium mall, one of more than 20 branches nationwide. Delifrance specializes in pastries, croissants and baguettes, perfect for breakfast and light snacks.

Among its bestsellers is the Premier Clubhouse with Chips (P168), consisting of omelette, bacon, honey-cured ham, wheat bread and chips. Another must-try is their Ham and Egg Tray (P219). With scrambled egg, baguette and butter, fruits and choice of orange juice or coffee, it is both healthy and filling for breakfast or brunch.


PREMIER Clubhouse with Chips and Four Seasons



INSIDE Landes

JERK Chicken Breast

PORK Medallion with Wine Sauce

CLEAR Water City Caesar salad

ICED Macchiato

Landes

For people with more time on their hands especially moms with kids in tow, the best place is probably Landes café and deli (tel. 6877118), located at the top floor. It is a small café, only six tables, inside a store that sells toys and collectibles.

At first glance, it would hardly occur to anyone that the tables are set up for dining since there are no utensils, menu or even tablecloths on them. A bigger and wider table lets kids use play board games and do artworks.

The concept of the store is quite refreshing as it is uncommon. While kids play, their moms can enjoy the cafe's hotel-like dishes prepared by full-fledged chefs. Landes serves regular entrees, not just sandwiches or pastas, and delicious coffee concoctions, rather than simply brewed and three-in-one coffees.

Bestsellers are the Iced Macchiato (P145) coffee concoction, Pork Medallion with Wine Sauce (P245) served with scalloped potato and glazed onion, and Jerk Chicken Breast (P220), which can be both appetizer and entree.

Another must-try is the Clear Water City Caesar Salad (P245), which is unlike any other Caesar salad. It consists of assorted greens with special Caesar dressings and topped with crisp, chopped bacon.

Perfect for weight watchers, it uses a delicate kind of sauce, has no egg, and is doused in extra virgin olive oil.

Since Landes serves gourmet dishes, they tend to be a little expensive. But they sure are worth the price, giving both moms and kids a well-deserved break.

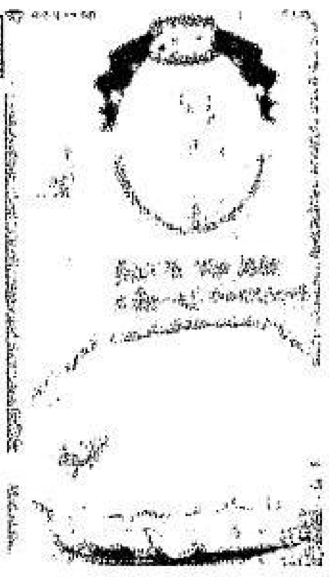
Grace

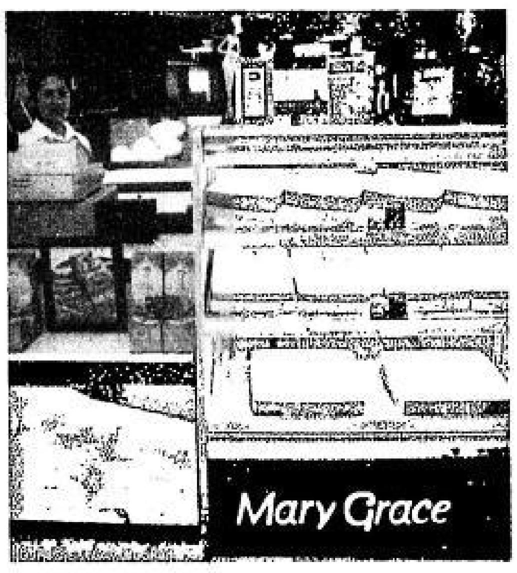
e existence of so many
n the market, people
ion by Mary Grace from
s introduced.

ymada is [really] our
uct," said Mary Grace
ner and president of
oods Inc. "It's an honest
so to speak, with no
..no added food color-
y fresh-baked daily."

e ensaymada are topped
e bola.

ients are sourced locally
e queso de bola. Mary
l-natural ingredients.
mada) will keep for a
long as you keep them in
he said.





Dimacali opened the first Mary Grace outlet in 2001 in Glorietta. She now has 11 kiosks and two cafes. She has added baked-items like brownies and lemon squares to her products.

Café Mary Grace also offers pasta, salads and sandwiches.

All Mary Grace baked items are based on Dimacali's own recipes.

Sebastian Ice Cream

Sebastian (3/L of The Podium), a new ice cream brand, offers unique and invigorating flavors to discriminating ice cream lovers.

"We [actually] consider our ice cream as works of art," said Vitto Lazatin, one of the owners of the Sebastian Ice Cream chain. "And the entire [kiosk] is the gallery. It is really very plain and simple, to (showcase) our product."

Lazatin, together with college friends Ian Carandang and Tony Bondoc, put up their first ice cream station in 2006 in Alabang Town Center. The good reception encouraged them to open a branch at The Podium.

"It started as a hobby. I love to make ice creams so I experimented with flavors. Some of them worked, while some didn't. It was really trial and error for us at first," said Carandang, the man behind the "weird" ice cream flavors. He tested different ice cream blends then came up with over 50 distinct flavors.

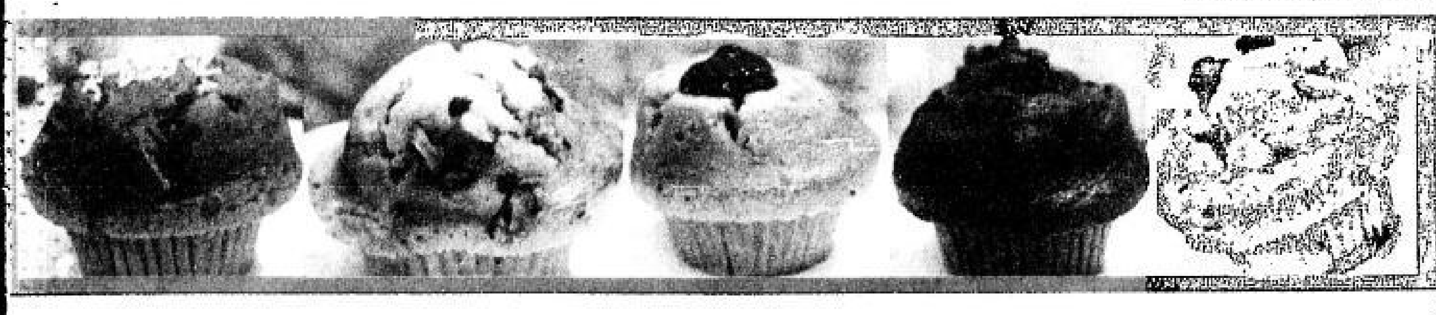
ENJOY a scoop of Sebastian Ice Cream for P85.

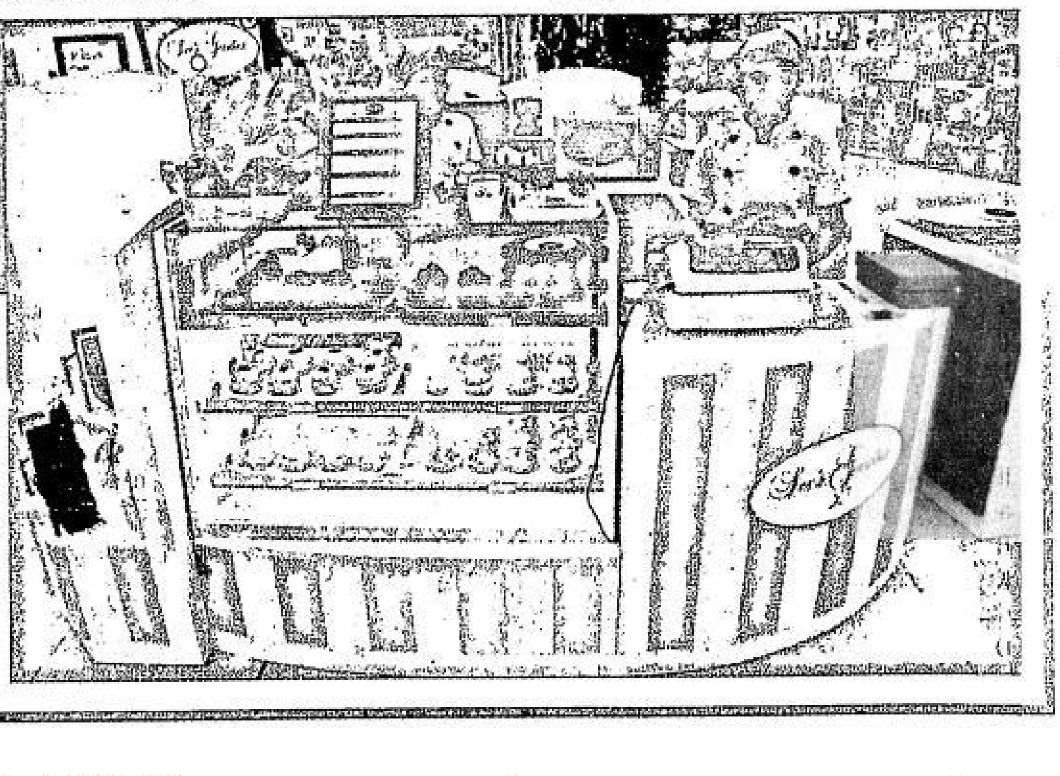
Sebastian's
SUGGESTION
BOX

The Malted Milkball Madness flavor (malt-vanilla ice cream garnished with Malteser halves) is one of the bestsellers.

Other exciting flavors include the Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (vanilla ice cream with unbaked chocolate chip cookie dough and walnuts), Chocoholics Anonymous (dark chocolate ice cream with a thick fudge swirl and dark chocolate chunks), Butter Pecan (rich butter ice cream loaded with crunchy butter-roasted pecans), Mango Sansrival Cashew and the Dulce de Leche con Fresca (sweet *dulce de leche* ice cream with a tart strawberry swirl made of real fruit).

The team is coming out with a new flavor this October, in time for trick-and-treating during Halloween.





Goodies

ed muffins by See's Goodies (3/L of The Podium, tels.
7-5344528) are becoming quite popular among moms
ough it has been operating for only two months.

Raffy See decided to start their small business when
their own kitchen became a hit with friends and rela-

C for 3-4

dies only has a limited number of baked items, but each
one.

s are available in flavors—blueberry, cappuccino, banana walnut, strawberry, chocolate, apple cinnamon, carrot, raisin, cheese, jaffa (choco chips and orange), peanut butter, corn and, the latest, choco banana (combination of chocolate and banana) and the hokey pokey (caramelized sugar).

"Our bestsellers are the blueberry and banana walnut muffins but kids (go) for chocolate muffins," said See.

The brownies are also to-die- for with flavors like fudge, espresso, choco peppermint and a la mode. See's Goodies also offers healthy breads, perfect with a cup of brewed Cotabato coffee. Flavored tea and juices are also available.

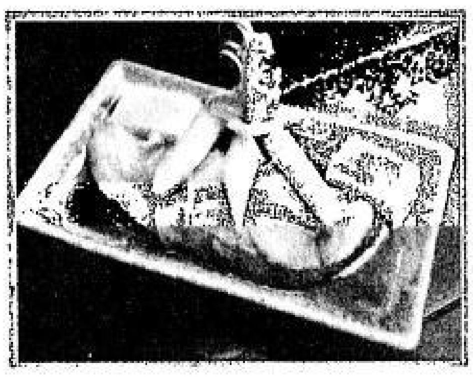
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

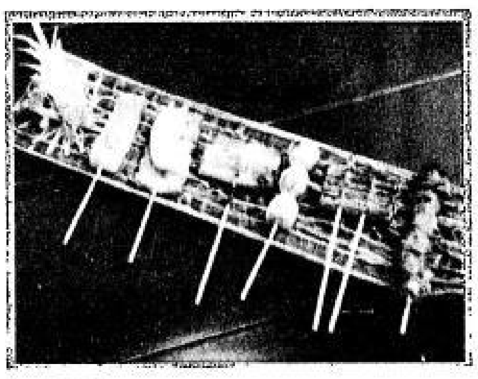
Savoring Asian flavors

Text by Mary Ann [illegible]
Photos by [illegible]

MAKE A DETOUR FROM THE USUAL THROUGH THE ROW OF ASIAN RESTAURANTS AT The Podium that serve only novel and authentic dishes. Most of these restaurants cater to the A-B market.

INSIDE Yaku


SHAKE Nitsuke

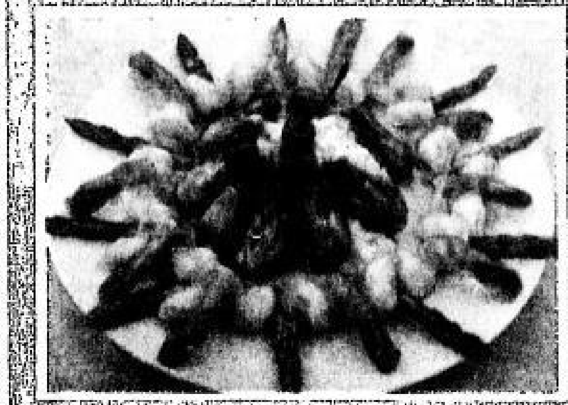

YAKU Platter

Yaku

With Asian fast-food chains popping up like mushrooms, high-end restaurants such as Yaku Japanese Grill (tel. 6875368) had a hard time coping. While being located at the corner end of the third floor of The Podium mall may not help draw in the crowd, it does attract more of Yaku's target A-B market.

"Our customers are mostly foreigners, celebrities and politicians. Actually, *kami ang taguan ng mga artista. Kung gusto mo makakita ng mga artista* on a date, *dito ka kumain*," Neil Regalario, store manager, said half-jokingly. Dim lights, interiors in warm earth tones and mellow tunes create an ambiance perfect for those who want to have some peace and quiet.

The bestsellers are Yaku Platter (P225), a selection of okra, tuna, pork belly, asparagus and pork strips, quail egg, chicken with onion leeks; Gyuniku no Yasaimaki (P160), spring onions wrapped in beef; and Shake Nitsuke (P175), boiled salmon with special Yaku sauce.


TWO-WAY Prawns

PEKING Duck

Gloria Maris

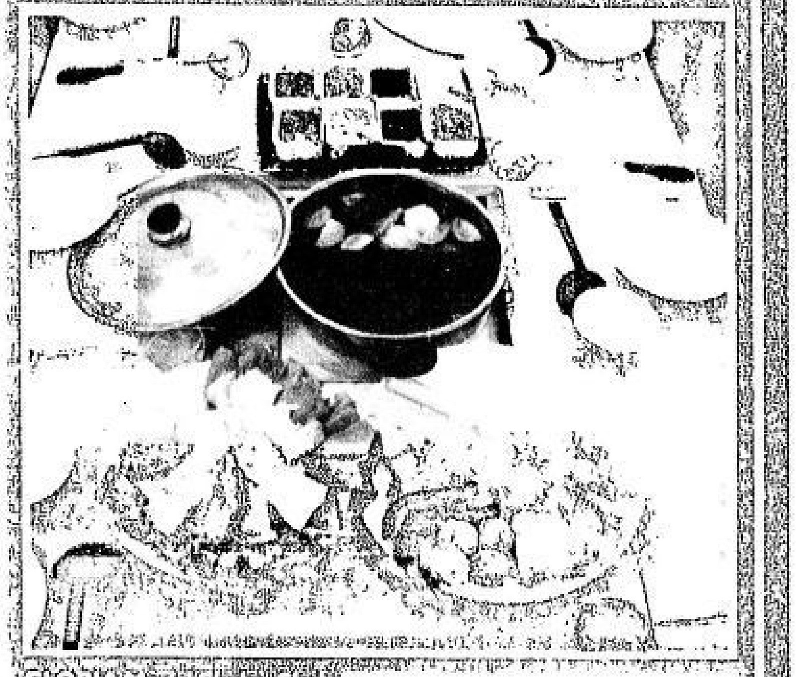
[illegible] restaurant owners [illegible] and feel may intimidate potential customers.

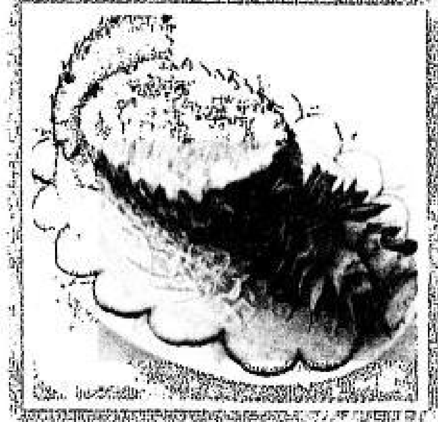
"To address this problem, we made sure our branch here in Podium would look more casual than our other branches. We set up canteen-style tables, the kind that do not have table napkins or several utensils laid out, to appear more inviting to customers," said Andrew Lim, 31, owner of Gloria Maris.

Lim described the Podium branch as a "dim sum kitchen" as opposed to "fine dining" as in the other branches. Gloria Maris Podium (tel. 6362905) specializes on dim sum and *shabu-shabu*, recommended for first-timers of the branch and priced relatively cheaper.

"We change our menu all the time. We take our cue from customers who look for food that we do not have, and then we try to cook one up and see how it fares," Lim said.

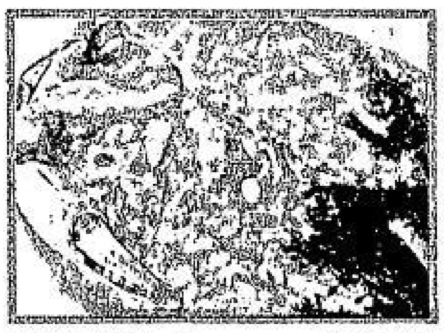
A must-try is the Two-way Prawns (P380) in which the body is sautéed in special sauce and the head is fried and braised in sweet chili sauce. The bestsellers are Peking Duck (P1,760), ordered usually during celebrations, and Pineapple Fried Rice (P280), fried rice with mixed seafood sautéed in fresh pineapple and presented in the fruit's original form.

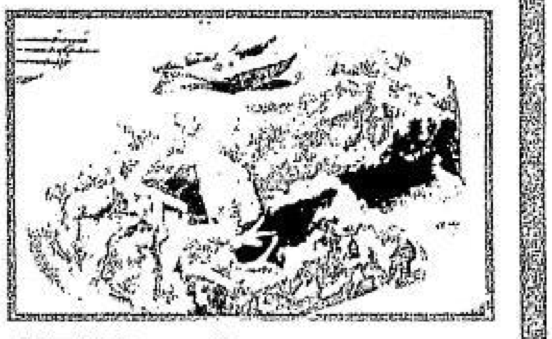

GLORIA Maris' Shabu-Shabu


PINEAPPLE Seafood Rice

ANDREW Lim, G[illegible]

Old and new names fill The Podium's Asian food row


CRUSTASIA's Singaporean Chili Crab


BUTTER Oatmeal Prawns

Crustasia

For customers feeling a bit adventurous or unsure of what Asian cuisine to go for, visit Crustasia Asian Crab and Food House (tel. 6313857) on the third floor of The Podium mall. The restaurant offers Thai, Vietnamese, Singaporean and Chinese ways of preparing crabs, lobster, prawns and shrimps.

Crustasia has a Vietnamese consultant, Thai chefs and a Filipino chef as well. "*Hindi mo na maloloko ang Pinoy, lalo na ngayon na* there are lots of opportunities for everyone to travel," said Lily Hao Chan, operations director. "We send our branch managers to travel around Asia to get a taste of the genuine and to keep tab of what's new in the food market so that we serve only modern and authentic food to the Filipinos."

Bestsellers are the Singaporean Chili Crab and Black Pepper Crab (118/100g for 1.1 kg and above); Vietnamese Seafood Paella (P365), seafood rice served on a cylinder; and Butter Oatmeal Prawns (P375), prawns made sweet and crunchy. For dessert, try the Vietnamese Saicon Cake (P95), alternately layered with *pandan* and yellow *mongo*, which is quite similar to our native *sapin-sapin*.

RAYMUND Magdaluyo, Crustasia owner

INSIDE Crustasia

Kimono Ken

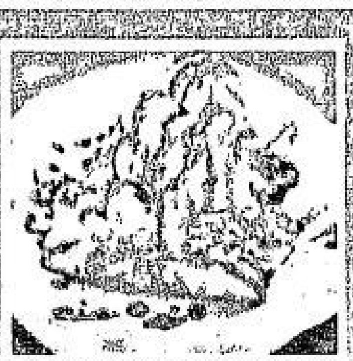
Another Japanese restaurant is Kimono Ken (tel. 6331458). With its food priced at affordable rates to cater to the B-C market, its slogan "Enticingly Japanese for less" holds true.

"The ingredients we use in our dishes are authentic Japanese. But our edge over other Japanese restaurants is that we offer our dishes at reasonable prices. For the quality of our food, the price is low," said Rosie Uy, part-owner of Kimono Ken. Uy co-owns the restaurant with friends Lynette Chan and Jackie Chua.

"We don't do advertising. We highly depend on word of mouth. Instead of spending on advertising, we'd rather spend it on making good food and satisfying our customers," Chan added.

The owners said they also try to offer something different by putting a twist to what would otherwise be a common Japanese dish, as in the case of Uni Spaghetti (P160). Sea urchin is sautéed with butter sauce and served on spaghetti noodles.

Bestsellers are Sashimi Moriawase (P250), a sampler plate of sashimi; Spicy Fresh Maguro Salad (P170), tuna sashimi with vegetables in special spicy dressing; and Mango Tempura a la Mode (P90), crispy mango tempura topped with ice cream and chocolate syrup, for dessert.


MANGO Tempura a la Mode

KIMONO Ken's Sashimi Moriawase

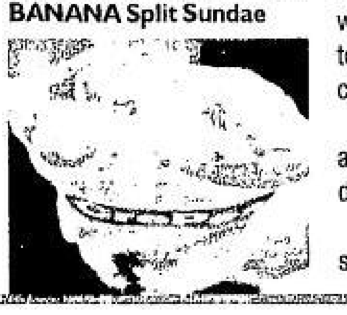
LYNETTE Chan, Jackie Chua and Rosie Uy, owners of Kimono Ken

Sweet dreams are made of these

From page 2

Crepes and Cream

HAZELNUT
Banana
Chocolate
CrePes
& Cre

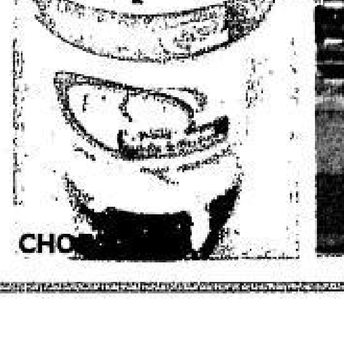

BANANA Split Sundae

Crepes and Cream (Upper Ground Level of The Podium, tel. 6315758) tries to appease any kind of crepe craving. It specializes in aromatic wafer and specially concocted sweet and savory crepes.

A bestseller is the Hazelnut Banana Chocolate, a nutella chocolate spread and rich vanilla ice cream wrapped in a sweet crepe with sliced bananas. It is topped with roasted almond flakes and whipped cream and drizzled with chocolate sauce.

Also popular is the Chicken Chipolata, chicken and pork sausage with a mild lemon taste, cheddar cheese, crunchy lettuce and juicy tomatoes.

Crepes and Cream also offers sundaes, milkshakes and hot and cold beverages.


CHO

Crepes & Cream

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- Master or higher level qualifications related to Health/ Pharmaceutical Regulations or Public Health Management and previous experience with health sector reform implementation is desirable.
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- Professional experience in any Land Administration and Management (LAM) technical field is preferred
- Active involvement in a professional organization, particularly in this organization's continuing professional development initiatives, is preferred
- Essential attributes include: • Positive attitude towards competency-standards based education and training systems • Ability to effectively facilitate discussion sessions with small to medium-sized groups • Excellent communication skills

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references palamp1@mindgate.net or fax to 9281176. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 PM, 1 October 2007.**

LAND equity

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to www.landequity.com.au, for detailed information about the company and to www.phil-lamp.org for the project information.

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with RA 7041)

SUPERVISING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SG-22, Item No. SADOF-1-2007. Bachelor's Degree, 3 years of relevant experience; 16 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

SENIOR HISTORY RESEARCHER, SG-18, Item No. SRHR-6-2007. Bachelor's Degree, 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.

SENIOR HISTORY RESEARCHER (Librarian III), SG-18, SRHR-5-2007. Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or Information Science or Bachelor of Science in Education/Arts major in Library Science; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility-RA1080.

SENIOR HISTORIC SITES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, SG-18, Item No. SRHSDO-49-2007. Bachelor's Degree; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.

ARCHITECT II, SG-16, Item No. ARC2-19-2007. Bachelor's Degree in Architecture; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility-RA1080.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST II, SG-16, Item No. INFOSA2-2-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IV (Accountant II), SG-15, Item No. ADOF4-3-2007. Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/ Business Administration major in Accounting; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility-RA1080

SHRINE CURATOR II, SG-14, Item No. SC2-20-2007 Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility/Shrine Curator (MC 11, s. 96 Cat. II)

SHRINE CURATOR II, SG-14, Item No. SC2-59-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility/Shrine Curator (MC 11, s. 96 Cat. II)

SHRINE CURATOR II, SG-14, Item No. SC2-60-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility/Shrine Curator (MC 11, s. 96 – Cat. II).

SHRINE CURATOR II, SG-14, Item No. SC2-61-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility/Shrine Curator (MC 11, s. 96 – Cat. II)

SHRINE CURATOR II, SG-14, Item No. SC2-62-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility/Shrine Curator (MC 11, s. 96 – Cat. II).

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST I, SG-12, Item No. INFOSA1-4-2007. Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; Experience none required; Training none required; Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility.

CREATIVE ARTS SPECIALIST I, SG-11, Item No. CASL1-17-2007 Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; Experience none required; Training none required; Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility.

MUSEUM TECHNICIAN II, SG-8, Item No. MUST2-43-2007. Completion of two years studies in college; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility (MC 11, s. 96 - Cat II)

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Senior Technical Writers (Job Code: STW 45)
- Required Skills : Technical Writing
- Work Experience : At least 3 years experience in writing
- Preference : Knowledge or experience in multimedia tools

Java/J2EE Developer (Job Code: JVJ 42)
- Required Skills : Java, J2EE, XML, SQL, Oracle and frameworks such as Struts and Hibernate
- Work Experience : At least 4 years experience in full life cycle design, construction, and implementation
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in IBM Websphere development tools and MQSeries

Java Web Services Developer (Job Code: JVW 22)
- Required Skills : Java, J2EE, JMS, Servlets, WSDL, SOAP, WSS, XML, XSL, DTD, PL/SQL, RDBMS stored procedures and database scripts, low level design documentation and review
- Work Experience : At least 2-3 years of experience in building web services and should have deployed at least one web service application in production
- Preference : Works independently with minimum supervision [illegible] system installations required for web services

Data Integration Specialist (Job Code: DIS 34)
- Required Skills : Java, JSP, Java Script, SQL/RDBMS skills
- Work Experience : At least 2-3 years of experience in data integration
- Preference : Works independently with minimum supervision

Visual Basic Programmers (Job Code: VBP 67)
- Required Skills : Visual Basic 6.0
- Work Experience : At least 2-4 years of developing applications in Visual Basic
- Preference : Knowledge or experience in Java or C#

Visual Basic .Net Developers (Job Code: VBN 42)
- Required Skills : VB.net, ASP.net
- Work Experience : At least 2-3 years of developing applications in VB.net
- Preference : Knowledge or experience in Java or C#

QA/Test Analysts (Job Code: QAT 51)
- Required Skills : Software testing/quality assurance using automated tools
- Work Experience : At least 3-5 years in software testing/quality assurance
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in Mercury Interactive tools

Ingenium Consultants (Job Code: ING 63)
- Required Skills : Ingenium software
- Work Experience : More than 5 years experience working in the financial services industry
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in systems design and implementation, project management, IT standards compliance, business continuity, user testing and post-implementation support, data conversion and legacy application maintenance

Siebel Configurators (Job Code: SBL 99)
- Required Skills : Siebel 7.0/7.5
- Work Experience : At least 2-3 years as a configurator
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in Java Script, Unix and a good understanding of database tables and structures

Business Analysts/System Analysts (Insurance) (Job Code: BAI 41)
- Required Skills : Insurance industry domain knowledge
- Work Experience : At least 3-5 years in a non-life insurance business consulting environment-banking/finance or related industries
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in VB and UML

Business Analyst (Job Code: BAC 99)
- Required Skills : Business domain knowledge
- Work Experience : At least 3-5 years in a business or consulting environment
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in business modeling tools

Business Objects Developers (Job Code: BOB 14)
- Required Skills : Business Objects 6.5 / XIR2 Web Intelligence, SQL and Oracle PL/SQL
- Work Experience : At least 3 years in using BO
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in data warehousing, business intelligence, and writing Unix shell scripts

SAP Consultants (Job Code: SAP 96)
- Required Skills : SAP module (any module: BASIS,BW,HR,FICO,MM,PP,SD)
- Work Experience : At least 3 years in implementation/support of SAP modules
- Preference : Full cycle implementation experience

ABAP Progammers (Job Code: ABP 92)
- Required Skills : ABAP programming
- Work Experience : At least 2 years in ABAP programming
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in RDBMS

Cobol Programmers (Job Code: COB 73)
- Required Skills : COBOL mainframe programming
- Work Experience : At least 5 years programming in a mainframe environment
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in pharmaceutical/ healthcare and insurance industries and in CMMI, ISO and Application Integration Methodology

Project Manager (Job Code: PMG 34)
- Required Skills : Project management
- Work Experience : At least 5 years of project management experience in IT application package deployment/application development
- Preference : With financial business domain knowledge

Oracle Database Administrator (Job Code: ODB 95)
- Required Skills : Oracle (any version: 8i, 9i, 10g) Database Administration (DBA), SQL,PL/SQL, data warehousing
- Work Experience : At least 3 years as a DBA
- Preference : With experience in Oracle application release or in DBA migration tasks specifically EBSSE single node to multi-node environment

Oracle Developer (Job Code: ODV 66)
- Required Skills : Oracle Developer, Oracle Discoverer, PL/SQL
- Work Experience : At least 2 years as an Oracle developer
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in customization of Oracle eBusiness Suite

Peoplesoft Consultant (Job Code: PSC 21)
- Required Skills : PeopleTools, PeopleCode, SQR, Workflow, PS Modules (Payroll and HR), SQL
- Work Experience : At least 1 year as a PeopleSoft consultant
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in unit testing, O-R, Catching

SQL Database Administrators (Job Code: SQD 37)
- Required Skills : MS SQL Server 2000 Database Administration (DBA), SQL
- Work Experience : At least 3 years as a DBA

Web Developers (Job Code: WBD 16)
- Required Skills : PHP, Flash, XML, DHTML, Java Script
- Work Experience : At least 2 years in Web application development
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in SOA

E-Learning Developers (Job Code: ELD 66)
- Required Skills : MultiMedia Tools (e.g. Flash, Adobe Premiere, Adobe Photoshop Dreamweaver, Illustrator, etc) very good verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : Open for fresh college graduates (Information Technology, Instructional System Design, Computer Science, Multimedia Arts)
- Preference : Experienced in creating websites

XML Editors (Job Code: XML 51)
- Required Skills : XML coding, good verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : At least 1 year in XML coding
- Preference : Experienced software programming

Informatica Developers (Job Code: INF 05)
- Required Skills : Informatica ETL processes, SQL
- Work Experience : At least 3 years in using Informatica
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in Oracle PL/SQL

HTML Developer (Job Code: HTM 23)
- Required Skills : HTML, good verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : At least 1 year in HTML coding
- Preference : Experienced in multimedia tools and software programming

Authorware Developers (Job Code: AWD 76)
- Required Skills : Authorware tools, excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : At least 1 year in using Authorware tools
- Preference : Experienced in software programming

Senior QA/Tester/Analyst
- Required Skills : Software testing, quality assurance using automated tools, PMO, Business Analysis
- Work Experience : At least 5 years team lead QA testing experience
- Preference : Has experienced full life-cycle development of enterprise-scale applications

Artwork Editors (Job Code: AWK 76)
- Required Skills : Flash, Adobe Photoshop, good verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : At least 1 year in artwork editing
- Preference : Experienced in software programming

C#.Net Developers (Job Code: CNT 98)
- Required Skills : C#.net, ASP.net, VB.net, XML, MS SQL Server, Perl
- Work Experience : At least 3 years of developing applications in C#.net
- Preference : Knowledge or experience in other Object Oriented programming languages

Storyboard Writers (Job Code: SBW 52)
- Required Skills : Creative writing, excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Work Experience : At least 1 year in doing animation scripts and screenplays
- Preference : Experienced in copy writing and software programming

COGNOS ReportNet Developers (Job Code: COG 76)
- Required Skills : COGNOS ReportNet, SQL
- Work Experience : At least 3 years in using COGNOS
- Preference : Knowledge and experience in Oracle PL/SQL

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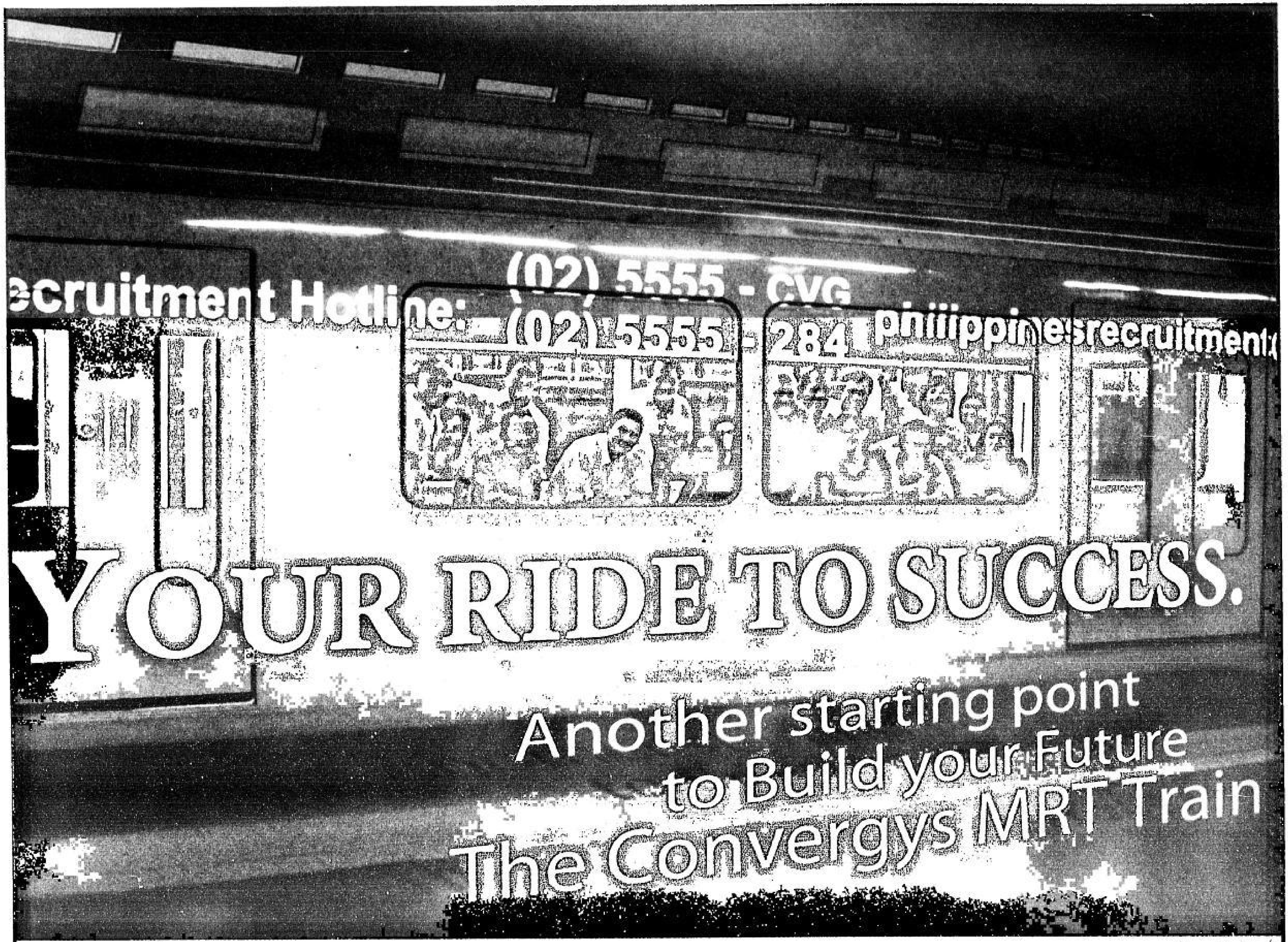

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- Financial and Sales Associates
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- Recruitment Officer
- Recruitment Specialist
- HR Officer
- Senior Facilities Assistant

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REQUIREMENTS

Updated Resumé
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Applicants are requested to mail or email their requirements to:
The Human Resources Management Division
Laus Group Corporate Center
Carworld Inc. Bldg.,
San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
NOT LATER THAN OCT. 13, 2007

email: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

FINANCE MANAGERS (City of San Fernando, Pampanga)
- Male or Female, graduate of BS Accountancy; Must be a CPA
- Has gained at least 10 years relevant work experience
- With good scholastic standing;
- Has good verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in spreadsheets
- Familiar with various accounting software (e.g. Peachtree, Quickbooks, etc.)
- Hardworking and willing to render extra work hours, and
- With pleasing personality

FINANCE ASSISTANTS (City of San Fernando, Pampanga)
- Male or Female, graduate of BS Accountancy / BS Financial Management, Major in Accountancy
- With good scholastic standing; preferably an honor student in high school or college;
- Has good verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in spreadsheets and with adequate understanding of bookkeeping functions
- Familiar with various accounting software (e.g. Peachtree, Quickbooks, etc.)
- Hardworking and willing to render extra work hours

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The position reports to the Director, the designated Professional Staff and/or National Officer.

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- Male/Female 23-50 yrs. Old
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- With at least two (2) years work experience in auditing/accounting functions;

ASSOCIATE PRODUCT MANAGER (FOR A TOP EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY)

- Must have a college degree in Business or Medical Sciences;
- Must have at least three (3) years work experience in medical promotions.

ACCOUNTING STAFF / BOOKKEEPER

- Graduate of BS Accountancy; not more than 30 years old;
- Proficient in MS Excel & other spreadsheet applications.

CIVIL ENGINEER

- Applicants must be a Licensed Civil Engineer;
- Must have at least one (1) year relevant work experience.

DRUG REGULATORY AFFAIRS SUPPORT

- Must be a Licensed Pharmacist;
- Must have at least one (1) year work experience in Drug Regulatory Affairs.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering;
- Adept in conducting Time & Motion Studies & Process Mapping.

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of any Bachelor's / College Degree with good communication skills
- Must be willing to do field work

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of any 4-year Business related course;
- Must have excellent communication skills, strong customer orientation and driving skills;
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in selling products.

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

- Graduate of any Bachelor's / College Degree;
- At least five (5) years supervisory or managerial experience

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All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:
- *BS Agriculture, Agri-Related Courses or Marketing Graduate*

Experience:
- *At least 5 years supervisory experience in promotions, marketing and /or sales of Crop Protection and other Agricultural inputs*
- *Preferably with Excellent Track Record in Promoting, Demand-Creation and /or Sales of Crop Protection Products or Other Agricultural inputs*
- *Basic Knowledge in Crop Protection*

Skills:
- *With Excellent Management, Interpersonal, Communication and Leadership Skills*
- *Effective Negotiating, Presentation and Selling Skills*
- *Extensive Network in the Industry*

Other Qualifications:
- *Male, 28-38 years old*
- *Basic Knowledge in Accounting, Driving and Computer Applications (MS Office)*
- *Willing to be assigned in Iloilo*

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:
- *BS Agriculture, Agri-Related Degree*

Experience:
- *At least 5 years Work Experience in the Agricultural industry with previously held positions in Brand Management, Field Promotions. Technical Services or Stewardship*
- *Has worked with Advertising, PR and Creative Agencies to Develop Communication Plans and Programs*
- *Has Field Experience and Good Knowledge of Farmers, Growers and Influencers*
- *Outstanding Technical Background/Knowledge of Products, IPM/ICM*

Skills:
- *Outstanding Ability to Develop and Document Successful and "Impact" Programs*
- *Good Network with FPA and Crop life*
- *Excellent Management, Interpersonal, Communication and Leadership Skills*
- *Effective Negotiating, Presentation and Networking Skills*
- *Highly Organized, and Innovative*

Other Qualifications:
- *Male, 27-35 years old*
- *Basic Knowledge in Driving and Computer Applications (MS Office)*
- *Willing To Do Fieldwork to Different Points of the Country*

ONLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES are requested to email their resume with pictures at **cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com** or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, and Calamba City not later than **September 28, 2007**.

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Finishing Carpenters	05
Masons	15
ENGINEERS & OTHERS:	
Civil Engineers	08
Mechanical Engineers	03
Electrical Engineers	03
Quantity Surveyors	05
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Our Foreign Principal **CALIFORNIA HOTEL** (Reg. No. 10107345) in Dubai, UAE is in need of staff for the following positions:

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Helper	Male
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BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio-Data, Handwritten Application Letter, SSS #, TIN, ID Picture, Copy of Board Examination Result

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EventWorx makes a call for participants for OFW Jobs 2007

AIMED AT PROVIDING A VENUE where direct recruiters, foreign principals, and OFW wannabes can meet for a 3-day grand recruitment—EventWorx Company in cooperation with Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, WorkAbroad.ph, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, opens OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair, at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, on Oct. 18-20, 10 am – 7 pm.

With booth spaces available for on-the-spot interviews, a spacious lounge for jobseekers, a fill-up counter, a common job-posting board, and a fully-automated applicant registration system, courtesy of WorkAbroad.ph—the event is sure to attract thousands of jobseekers each day wanting to work abroad.

Featuring a 10x14ft Wide Screen installed in the venue, showing a list of jobs from participating recruiters—applicants, even ordinary mallers will have a full view of the various opportunities available in the job fair. This will translate to increased awareness among potential applicants, for the benefit of all participating recruiters.

And because the event encourages OFWs to get into business, specifically for their loved ones and families in the country, while actively working abroad—a separate booth cluster will be allocated for entrepreneurs wishing to showcase their products and services, specifically business ideas available for franchising, and a lot of other potential livelihood options, for OFWs interested in getting into business.

OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair is being supported by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), Alaxan FR, Clickthecity.com, PinoyExchange.com, CareerCare.com.ph, Trabaho.com, and 91.5 Energy FM Radio.

For bookings and other inquiries, please contact EventWorx Company at telephone #746-2764, mobile phone # 0906-2457831, email via info_eventworx@yahoo.com, or visit www.ofwjobs2007.com.

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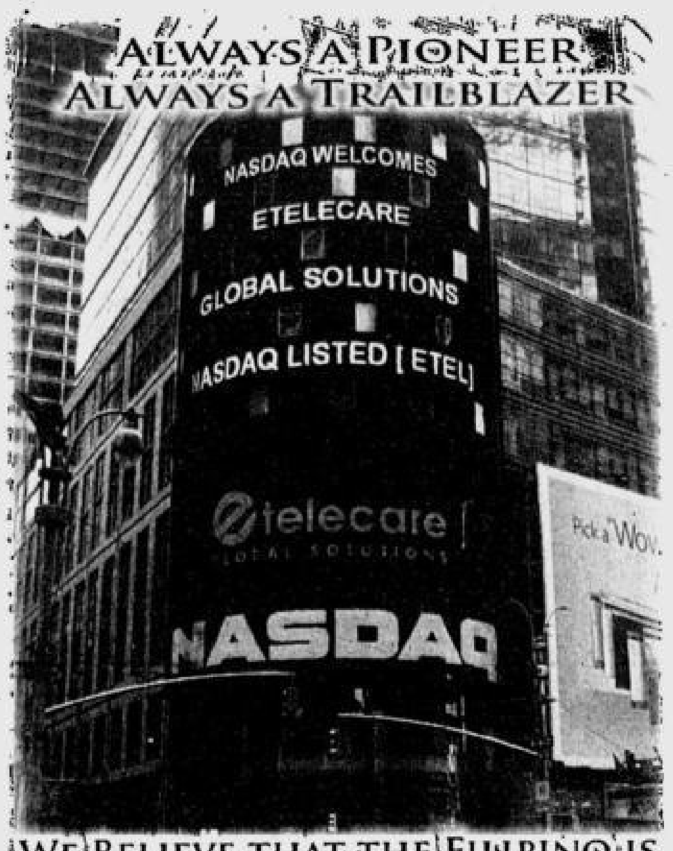

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- Male, B.S. Mechanical graduate, licensed engineer
- With 3-5 years experience in the automotive industry
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Knowledgeable in training module preparation
- Customer oriented
- With professional driver's license

TECHNICAL ENGINEER (Code: CBD-01)

- Male, Licensed B.S. Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering graduate
- With at least 3 years work experience in the automotive industry
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Customer oriented
- Expertise in mechanical and electrical aspect of vehicle repairs
- With professional driver's license

TECHNICIAN (Code: DND-02)

- Male, Automotive Technology graduate
- 25-30 years old
- With at least 2 years work experience in the automotive industry

OFFICE STAFF (Code: DND-03)

- Female, graduate of any Engineering or Business course
- Excellent communication skills, knowledgeable in MS Office
- Has a good learning attitude, with or without experience

JUNIOR PROGRAMMER (Code: ADM-01)

- Male/Female, graduate of any Computer Science or any IT related 4 year course
- Must have knowledge in computer programming
- Can prepare complex programs with minimal supervision
- Proficiency in Microsoft Access and Crystal Report is an advantage

You may submit your application letter (with code) and resume at
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Laguna Technopark Incorporated, Biñan, Laguna 4024
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- Assist in the day-to-day accounting and financial functions of the company.
- Assist in the human resource and administration functions of the company.

Requirements:
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- At least 2 to 3 years' relevant working experience, preferably working with fully computerized accounting systems.
- Those with auditing or exposure to AS400 environment will be an added advantage.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good computer literacy with high proficiency in MS-Office applications especially Microsoft Excel.

Interested applicants please email or write in with your full resume, photograph, current/expected salaries, and contact number to:

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For applications please contact either of the following:
Ms. Blesila G. Tani-Salva, Administration Manager
Mr. Paul Brillante, Finance Manager

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East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
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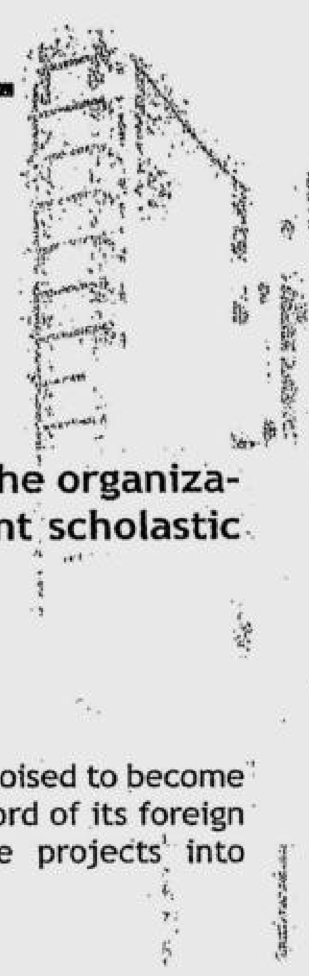

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Backed by the solid reputation of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. (EPPI) is poised to become one of the top real estate developers in the Philippines. EPPI draws inspiration from the successful track-record of its foreign counterpart Eton Properties Limited in Hongkong and China and aims to develop various large-scale projects into commercially-viable, progressive and high-quality developments.

AVP - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management Engineering/ Economics or equivalent
- Preferably with MBA
- With at least 15 years experience in business development functions/ market research/ financial modeling in a managerial capacity
- Professional, highly analytical, resourceful, results-driven

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree and/ or Master's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Economics or equivalent
- With at least 10 years experience in business development functions/ market research/ financial modeling
- Mature, highly analytical, resourceful and results-oriented, teamplayer

MARKETING MANAGERS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree and/or Master's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Marketing or equivalent
- With at least 10 years relevant work experience in marketing management, preferably in a real estate company
- Creative, assertive, results-driven, with good interpersonal and presentation skills, teamplayer

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGERS

- Must have an existing U.S. and/or Europe visa
- Extensive travel experience would be an asset
- Willing to travel overseas 50% of the working time
- With at least 5 years sales management experience
- Independent, assertive, confident, teamplayer

BROKER NETWORK MANAGERS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Marketing or equivalent from a reputable school
- With at least 5 years work experience, preferably in broker management with a key player in the real estate industry
- With an impressive track record in selling real estate
- Should be available to brokers even on weekends
- Must have the aptitude for organizational and managerial work
- Equipped with above average oral & written communication skills and excellent presentation skills
- Assertive, confident, dynamic and results-driven
- Ability to train people is a plus

MARKETING OFFICER

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Marketing or equivalent
- Minimum of 5 years relevant work experience, 2 years of which were in a supervisory level
- With proven skills in marketing management
- Previous experience in the real estate industry would be an advantage
- Have a good command of oral & written English
- Confident with excellent interpersonal skills
- Male; must possess professional driver's license

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree or Masters Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Economics/ Management Engineering or equivalent
- Must have at least 5 years experience in business development functions/ market research/ financial modeling
- Must be mature, highly analytical and resourceful
- Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Economics/ Management Engineering or equivalent
- Previous experience in business development/ market research/ financial analysis would be an asset
- Must be confident, good with numbers, highly analytical and resourceful
- Must have excellent oral & written communication skills
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Must be a college graduate with excellent scholastic records
- Preferably with previous experience in providing sales support and in coordination/ overseeing administrative jobs
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills; fast learner
- Male candidates are preferred

COMMERCI[illegible] CENTER BUSINESS HEAD

- Will be responsible for business development, leasing and mall operation of future commercial centers of the Company
- With at least 20 years experience, 10 years of which in the commercial center business
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- Adept in planning, highly analytical, results-driven, a teamplayer and strong interpersonal drive

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGERS/ ENGINEERS

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With at least 15 years experience in project management of high-rise buildings
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Driven, hardworking, resourceful and a team player

HORTICULTURIST

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture/ Landscape/ Forestry/ Aqua Culture or equivalent
- With at least 10 years working experience in establishment and maintenance of tree/ plant nursery, golf course and landscape garden, and maintenance of lakes/ lagoons
- Knowlegeable in waste management and integration of grounds maintenance with nursery operations
- Hardworking, resourceful and can work with minimum supervision

PROJECT MANAGERS

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With at least 10 years experience in project management of high-rise buildings
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- Hardworking and resourceful

PROJECT ARCHITECT

- Licensed Architect
- With at least 5 years experience in Architecture/Interior Design
- Computer proficient and knowledgeable in Autocad and MS applications
- Experience in horizontal and vertical construction would be an asset

WEB DESIGNER

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering or equivalent.
- With minimum 1 year experience in web application
- Preferred skills: web design & development, creative design
- A teamplayer with strong interpersonal skills

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts/ Design/ Creative Multimedia and/or Advertising
- Must have at least 2 years experience in Arts/ Creative/Graphic Design
- Must be experienced in Adobe Illustrator or Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, MS Office (Word & Powerpoint), and Mac OS X
- Knowledge in Web Design and Flash Animation is a plus
- Highly creative and a teamplayer

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing/ Business/ Communications/ Advertising or equivalent
- With above average academic records; computer proficient
- Previous experience in a related field would be an asset
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- Creative, hardworking and resourceful; with good interpersonal skills
- New graduates are welcome to apply

LOANS PROCESSOR

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- With at least 1 year work experience in a real estate company or Loans Department of an established bank
- Highly analytical, keen on details, willing to extend working hours
- Computer proficient
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ACCOUNTING / TREASURY ASSISTANTS

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- Previous experience in treasury/general accounting would be an advantage
- Analytical, keen on details, hardworking and willing to extend working hours
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

- Must have a MBA or Masters Degree in Finance
- With at least 10 years experience, preferably from the banking industry in the fields of CTS financing, mortgage financing and Pag-IBIG financing
- Highly analytical and systematic with strong interpersonal skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management or equivalent
- With at least 10 years experience, 5 years of which is in customer service
- Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills
- Team player, results-driven, with strong interpersonal skills

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Must have a Master's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Economics or equivalent
- Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills
- Preferably with experience in corplan, statistical analysis and/or business research
- Professional, mature, highly analytical, systematic and flexible
- Results-oriented, assertive, can handle pressure on the job well; willing to extend working hours when necessary

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OFFICER

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent
- With at least 3 years working experience in recruitment (from rank & file to executive level positions) and corporate training (i.e . coordination, facilitation and the conduct of training/ seminars)
- Mature, professional, flexible; highly organized & systematic; able to relate well with all levels in the organization
- Computer proficient

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent; preferably a CPA
- With at least 3 years related work experience, preferably in the real estate industry
- Can withstand pressure and knowledgeable in computerized accounting system
- Confident, resourceful, highly analytical and hardworking

LOANS OFFICER

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- With at least 5 years work experience in backroom operations of a real estate company or Loans Department of an established bank
- Highly analytical, professional, service-oriented, works with the highest degree of integrity
- Keen on details, willing to render long hours, results-driven

FINANCIAL ANALYST

- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or related courses
- Licensed CPA; with background in SAP applications
- With at least 5 years experience as a Financial Analyst
- Mature, assertive, with impeccable integrity

METHODS ANALYST

- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering or equivalent.
- Must have experience in systems analysis & design, forms design, systems organization charting & analysis, and business planning
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications, highly analytical and has excellent communication skills
- Preferably with previous experience in a real estate company

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT

- Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent
- With at least one year experience in recruitment (from rank & file to officer level positions) and related functions
- Highly organized & systematic; able to relate well with all levels in the organization
- Computer proficient

CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALISTS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management or equivalent.
- Preferably with at least one year experience in Customer Service
- With above average scholastic records
- Must be fluent in oral and written English; highly personable
- Confident, outgoing and resourceful

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Taking care of workers takes care of business

From personnel management to people management

By Roel A. Andag
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

THE SHIFT FROM "PERSONNEL management" to "people management" has significant connotations transcending semantics. Business practice is progressing from "depersonalization" (man as machine) to "humanization" (workers as partners). From being treated as mere peons, workers are now valued as individuals—complex human beings with needs and emotions.

The era of "walang personalan-trabaho lang" workplace mentality is fading gradually. This development can be attributed to driving forces such as:

Appreciation of workers' rights. With the help of watchdogs and advocates, workers are aware of their rights and are more confident about asserting them. For its part, the company is aware of the potential consequences of violating these rights. Legal battles, workplace conflicts and loss of trust are disastrous to the company.

Increasing consciousness about work-life balance. Business owners and workers seek equilibrium in their life at work and beyond. Burnout and fatigue lead to absences and underperformance. Work-life balance counters the adverse effects of work-related stress.

Search for personal relevance in constantly morphing work conditions. Workers are pressured to cope with technological advances, outsourcing, mergers and similar developments that result in the rapid obsolescence of competencies. Without proper retooling, workers feel disoriented and irrelevant.

Quest for competitiveness. Despotic companies simply cannot attract the best minds. Mistreated workers are not the best of performers. At the heart of a competitive company is a motivated workforce that accelerates productivity and profitability. Availability of information. Information technology allows workers and watchdogs to obtain data easily. Benchmarking work practices is just a Google search away. Mass media is also a helpful information source and a powerful influencer.

A company that insists on the primitive way of treating workers as mere production inputs faces extinction. Its comeuppance is near. Here are some ways of valuing people at work:

1. Ensure that workers enjoy entitlements that are mandated by law. Comply with regulations governing compensation, social security, housing and healthcare. A law-abiding company will not have to deal with litigation costs and work disruption. Apply industry standards especially when they exceed the requirements of the law. Some companies provide daycare and scholarships for employees' children.

2. Institutionalize continuous development. The first step is to know the workers' development needs. Armed with this knowledge, run responsive training, coaching and mentoring programs that provide vision and direction, enhance performance, optimize skills, improve relationships and facilitate change. Recognize employee's self-initiated activities such as volunteering in nonprofit organizations as merit credits.

3. Create a professional and comfortable work climate. Equip workers with technologies that enhance efficiency. Ergonomically designed equipment and furniture are worthy investments as they reduce work-related stress.

Beyond the physical, a work environment that minimizes conflict while allowing creative friction will encourage workers to be more innovative.

Apply sound corporate and human development philosophies to strengthen company culture.

4. Promote work-life balance. Stress-busting exercises, rest and recreation activities, subsidized gym fees or in-house facilities, allowing people to conclude a workday at the eighth hour and offering alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting are just some of the ways to prevent burnout.

5. Match jobs and persons strategically. Avoid job mismatch by learning about a person's real interests and skills in relation to business requirements and objectives. Half the battle is won when a job role is assigned to the best qualified person. Solid support, capability gap remedy, monitoring and evaluation will ensure that the role is executed satisfactorily.

6. Affirm performance. Grant merit-based raises, incentives and rewards. Depoliticize such decisions by using objective performance appraisals. Recognition can be in cash or kind as long as it symbolizes the significance of the worker's contribution.

7. Communicate openly and honestly. Establish mechanisms that engage management and workers in regular dialogue. Authentic communication characterized by verbal and nonverbal articulation and active listening fosters trust, promotes team cohesion, defuses conflict, reveals insights and encourages involvement.

8. Democratize decision-making. Involve workers in making crucial decisions. Make sure that it is not merely token attendance in meetings but genuine participation. Allowing them to ventilate their views, with the assurance that their ideas are considered, paves the way for workers' buy-in and cements their sense of ownership of decisions made.

9. Uphold the use of leaves of absence as a right. Labor law grants leave credits to workers. As such, leaves should never be dangled as "utang na loob" or rewards that are difficult to obtain.

10. Empathize. Unlike robots, human beings have emotions. In this context, emotion is not viewed as workplace soap opera but a state of being that is useful for information, inspiration and growth. Being sensitive to emotional cues, a company can help employees outgrow unhelpful behaviors.

Practice empathy by being responsive to workers' ideas, needs and feelings, with the aim of arriving at intelligent decisions.

11. Personalize. Establish a direct connection between the company's vision and business objectives to the aspirations and prospects of the employees. This alignment enables the worker to locate himself in the order of things and deepens his appreciation of his role. This will instill pride and purpose.

12. Allocate resources. Reinforce implementation by supporting people management strategies with adequate resources. Doing so will send an unmistakable signal that the company is serious in this undertaking.

The person-work dichotomy is no longer tenable. People management is directed towards the integration of work as an integral part of the person and vice versa. When a company takes care of its most valued assets, which are its workers, the workers will reciprocally take care of the company. A motivated, high-morale workforce works better. The bottom line will substantiate the result.

(The author is a training and communication consultant. E-mail the author at success.system1@gmail.com.)

'Did my being a mother work against my career advancement?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

I'M SO DESPONDENT ABOUT my career because my being a mother and, perhaps, being a woman, had worked against my career advancement. My boss did not consider me for the position of national sales manager although I had been sales supervisor of the year for three consecutive years. He assumed that my being a mother of four (three kids in school and one three-month-old baby) would make it difficult for me to handle the job of national sales manager who needs to travel to different places in the Philippines where our company does business.

I feel so demotivated and demoralized that I want to resign. I've been with my company for nine years and have risen from sales rep to sales supervisor, a position I've held for five years. I'm now 41 years old.

My career goal, which my husband approves of, is to go up to the highest level possible in sales management. My 73-year-old mother, who lives with us, is healthy and she looks after our kids. I can always get a competent "yaya" and a househelp to help my mother. Besides, my husband is an accountant and observes regular office hours. So you see, I can be mobile and do what I need to do. I see no future for me now in my chosen career while my boss is my boss. I don't know if his boss, who is also a male, has also gender bias. What should I do?

Ms Career Stuck

You have clearly identified your feelings about your situation. In addition, you feel confused whether to stick it out in your company where you now find your career derailed because of your perception that being a mother of four children was the impediment to your promotion, or to resign which you are hesitant to do.

Mobility

From the way you describe your marriage and family situation, it seems that your mobility will not be a problem and that you can fill the requirements and face the challenges of the position of national sales manager. However, instead of second guessing if your being a mother of four, was indeed the reason why you had not been considered to the sales management position, I suggest that you go directly to your boss and ask him the following questions:

- Am I qualified for the position?
- If so, what was the reason (or reasons) why I didn't get it?
- If not, can you please tell me the reason (or reasons) why not?
- In what areas should I improve to increase my chances for promotion next time a vacancy occurs?

You can be upfront with him by telling him your marriage and family situation; that you have your husband's blessing to pursue a sales management career; that you have your mother staying full time with your children. Because of these, you are mobile and available to travel to different places where your company has business.

However, he may not be upfront with you by telling you the risks of having a woman in a sales management position: being exposed to physical hazards in travel to some areas where men are more fit to be in; that women are subject to molestation and to sexual harassment, and the like. Maternity leave makes a woman unproductive, a matter that employers will not admit.

Emotional well-being

It is obvious from the way you write, that pursuing your career goal is more important to you than having quality time with your children. The absence of a mother from the home during the formative years of a child's life always has an effect on the emotional well-being of this child.

The need to be physically present at home when children experience certain "crises" in childhood and adolescence, such as failures and rejection, when they find the need to turn to a mother for support and nurturing, cannot be filled by their father or "lola." It is only when these children of absent parents show behavior problems in school that parents wake up and do remedial measures that might be too late.

And, oh yes! I also suggest that you ask your mother if she is willing to be full-time stay-at-home "mother surrogate," especially since having a competent "yaya" and househelp may not be that easy to get. If she is willing, I suggest you give her a regular compensation which you insist she gets. God bless you.

(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems, Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company. Feedback at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Striking a balance in technology

IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF BREAKneck speed in technological developments, it is quite important to strike a balance, whether at work or at play.

This is how Melody Tan dela Cruz, managing director of Premium Logic Computer Co., a provider of information technology products, views the local IT industry in general, its business, and its partnership with Acer (Philippines), Inc., a subsidiary of one of the world's top computer manufacturers.

When Premium Logic opened shop in 1988, computers were still at the high-end of the price chain, computer literacy was a big challenge, so encouragement and education were needed to convince people that technology is a good thing to complement their lives. "Add to this is the fact that PCs and peripherals at that time were not user-friendly, so customer support was vital and customers needed a lot of spoon-feeding," explains Dela Cruz.

But because of the convergence of modernization and widespread connectivity, the need for people to be constantly connected with each other spawned a new revolution. This revolution saw the emergence of IT products, not just computers but also personal digital assistants or PDAs and mobile phones, as vital tools to remain connected.

However, this revolution presented a downside, says Dela Cruz, particularly for a company like Premium Logic. "There were too many players, each one wooing the same set of consumers, and this brought about stiff competition resorting to price wars, hard selling, and other guerilla tactics, which is basically the recipe for a consumer's market."

And this is where, she said, the partnership with Acer comes in. She cited the alliance with Acer as a big boost to Premium Logic in terms of branding, support and growth. "Our relationship with them is really healthy. Their marketing efforts and their continuous study and understanding of local IT industry trends go a long way in boosting our business targets and helps us cope with the demand," says dela Cruz.

She said the brand is backed by solid product support. She adds that the firm also knows how to strike a balance in the fast-paced IT business.

"They know we also need a break once in a while ... I love the incentive trips abroad. It motivates us to work even harder to reach our goals," she continued.

Gospel. Luke 16:10-13
The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.

Small matters matter

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A SECRETARY I KNEW, LOST HIS JOB FOR THE AMOUNT of P10, which he used to take secretly from the weekly collections of a parish church. He thought that such small amount of money which he regularly pocketed for months would not be noticed by the pastor, and would not cost him much—the daily food and sustenance of his family for quite a while he was jobless. His dishonesty in very small matters, as Jesus warns in the selected Gospel verse, brought him to a greater mess in his life and that of his family members. There is indeed wisdom in the words of Jesus which give importance to even small matters. In fact, "a journey of a thousand miles starts with a step," as a saying goes.

The small matters in the workplace like punctuality in work, presence of mind or focus in one's task, keeping order and cleanliness in the work station, attention to details and routine of the operation, and so on, could sometimes become a great burden or cause boredom for the worker. Observing and keeping the minute details of the work could be so monotonous that it could dull one's sense of discernment regarding the really important things in life and work. The ordinary routine of the work could make the worker forget that after all, great achievements are made up of small accomplishments.

The worker therefore needs to be alert to the little things in his work and understand that, as Jesus teaches, his faithfulness in these small matters could contribute to greater success in his profession or trade and could moreover, gain for him merits which Jesus would surely compensate with abundant blessings in His kingdom. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

You can bet on it

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED TO JEFFREY, 45, CHIEF ACcountant, married, with three children. No one doubted his honesty, and he demanded honesty of his staff, too. Three years ago he had a fling with 23-year-old Leila, a newbie in the purchasing department. Covert flirtatious gestures began almost as soon as the two met. Young and pretty, Leila naturally attracted male attention, but she herself had her eyes on Jeffrey, good-looking, competent, supremely self-confident and generous with compliments.

Soon they started having "working lunches" together, often lugging along work-related records and documents to discuss over meals. Then, their officemates' suspicion was proven true when she'd always be nauseous and drowsy at work around 11 a.m. She was pregnant. As she'd confide to a close friend later, Jeffrey wanted abortion or he would deny the baby was his. The scandal scarred Jeffrey's marriage—his wife's trust could not be restored and worse, his friends now talk that she's having flings of her own. Leila resigned due to the scandal, entered a home for unwed mothers and then gave the baby up for adoption. Now she looks terribly older than her age, fiercely haunted by one question in her mind: did she do right in giving up her baby?

Dishonesty is not limited to money matters. The first flirtatious eye contact between the honest accountant Jeffrey and the innocent newcomer Leila was "small"—so were compliments on each other's looks, or winking when they'd pass each other by. These made up a "small" emotional dishonesty that led to a crisis which demanded greater dishonesty. "The person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones," today's Gospel reminds. You can bet your kidney on it—this is true. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

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IBM opens new business services recruitment hub in Eastwood

recruitmenthub

IBM BUSINESS Services (IBS) recently welcomed job seekers to its new Recruitment Hub. Situated at the Ground Floor of IBM Plaza in Eastwood City, the Hub has a testing area and interview rooms to accommodate applicants who are keen to be part of the company's hyper growth.

"We wanted a location that would take advantage of the high foot traffic in the area," says Joan Laquindanum, IBS Recruitment Manager. "We currently have more than 1,800 employees in the center and we will continue to expand due to the hyper-growth pace of the business."

IBS is one of the four subsidiaries of IBM in the Philippines. It provides best-in-class Human Resources and Finance and Accounting Services to large multinational organizations worldwide and is currently the number 1 HR Delivery Center in the region.

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The IBS Recruitment Hub is open from Monday to Friday from 9A.M. to 6 P.M. Fresh graduates and professionals with less than 18 months work experience are encouraged to walk-in and take the pre-employment examination. Experienced professionals may also walk-in and leave their resumes or email to: ibmhire@ph.ibm.com

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ENGINEERS • CONTRACTORS

We are currently in need of the following personnel to fill - in our vacancy for our ***DMCI Power Group .***

[illegible]ATIONS [illegible]

- Must be a licensed **ME / EE ;**
- With at least 5 years related technical and supervisory work experience in a diesel / steam turbine generator plant ;
- Has good managerial and coordinating skills;
- Strong analytical and decision -making skills ;
- Must be computer literate and posses trouble-shooting skills.

PLANT E & I [illegible]

- Electrical / Electronics or Engineering Technology graduate or equivalent ;
- With at least 2 - 3 years power plant electrician work related experience ;
- has working knowledge of Diesel Power Plant equipment and principles of operation ;
- oriented w/ blue prints, schematics and instruction manuals ;
- adequate knowledge in power - related government regulations ;
- computer literate; has good communication,. analytical and coordinating skills.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Must be a licensed **Mechanical Engineer ;**
- At least 30 - 45 yrs old;
- With at least 5 years experience gained in the power plant industry;
- must have working knowledge in design / installation of:
  - **a.** power generating sets and auxiliaries
  - **b.** plant support facilities

SHIFT SUPERVISOR

- Must be licensed **EE / ME ;**
- With at least 3 years related technical and supervisory work experience in a diesel / steam turbine generator plant ;
- Has good supervisory and coordinating skills ;
- With strong analytical and decision -making skills ;
- Must be computer literate and good trouble-shooting skills.

QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER

- Licensed **CE / ME / EE** ; 26 - 40 years old ;
- With at least 5 years related technical and supervisory work experience in a Diesel / Steam Turbine Generator Power Plant ;
- Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the basic requirements , concepts and procedures of quality assurance / control.

SAFETY ENGINEER / PCO

- Engineering graduates ; preferably with 3 - 5 years of experience as a Safety Officer / Engineer in a Power Plant Industry ;
- Well-versed in Safety Policies implementations, hazard/risk analysis;
- **DOLE / DENR Accredited** an advantage.

ENGINEERING SECRETARY

- Graduate of any 4 year relevant course ;
- Male / Female ; Not over than 35 years old ;
- Must be computer literate ;
- Well - organized and self - motivated ;
- Excellent communication skills and with pleasing personality ;
- Preferably with experience gained in an engineering office an advantage.

ELECTRICAL / INSTRUMENTATION

- Must be a licensed **Electrical Engineer ;**
- Preferably Male ; 30 - 45 years old;
- With at least 5 years experience gained in the power plant industry;
- must have working knowledge in design / installation of:
  - **a.** power generation and distribution system
  - **b.** instrumentation and control equipments

PLANT MECHANIC

- Mechanical, Marine, or Engineering Technology graduate or equivalent ; With atleast 2-3 years experience as a Power Plant Mechanic or its equivalent ; Has working knowledge in Diesel Power Plant Equipment and principles of operation.
- Oriented w/ blue prints, schematics and instruction manuals
- Adequate knowledge in power - related government regulations
- computer literate; has good communication, analytical and coordinating skills

TEST & COMMISSIONING ENGINEER

- Must be a licensed **EE / ME** ; 28 - 45 yrs. Old;
- With at least 8 years experience gained in the power plant industry;
- Must have working knowledge in:
  - **a.** testing and commissioning of electrical and mechanical assemblies

SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR

- Must be a licensed **EE / ME** ; 28 - 45 yrs. Old;
- With at least 10 years experience gained in the power plant industry;
- knowledgeable in design and construction of:
  - **a.** power generation and control systems
  - **b.** high voltage transformation and distribution
  - **c.** instrumentation and control
- With extensive exposure in project cost estimates, bids and documents.

DESIGN ENGINEERS

- Licensed **ME / EE** ; 26 - 40 years old ;
- With 4 - 5 years experience on the design of power plants , generating technical drawings and specifications for construction ;
- With experience in regulatory compliance and local standard operating conditions of power generation and distribution system;
- Must be familiar with various codes and standards ;
- Must be willing ro conduct site visits to the provinces where the projects are located .

CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR

- Must be a licensed Electrical , Mechanical, Marine Engineering, or Engineering Tech or its equivalent ;
- With at least 3 years related work experience ;
- has working knowledge of Diesel Power Plant equipment and principles of operation
- oriented w/ blue prints, schematics and instruction manuals ;
- adequate knowledge in power - related government regulations ;
- computer literate; has good communication, analytical and coordinating skills ;

INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED APPLICANTS SHOULD COME PERSONALLY !!(MON-FRI)
Kindly bring your COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH PICTURE., COPY OF TOR AND OTHER CREDENTIALS AT:
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Interested parties may send or email their resumé with attached latest photo to:
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- Female
- 20-25 years old
- At least college graduate
- With pleasing personality
- Good communication skills

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SERVICE ENGINEERS

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- Between 21 to 30 years old
- Experience in the installation, operation and service of industrial electronic and electrical equipment, including CNC machines is an advantage, but not necessary
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Honest, hardworking, disciplined and organized

Interested applicants please submit your resumé with a 2"x2" picture to the following address immediately:

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TEL: 3739651 (Look for Ms. Tina Oliva)
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Website: www.centerindustrial.com

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Diliman, Quezon City
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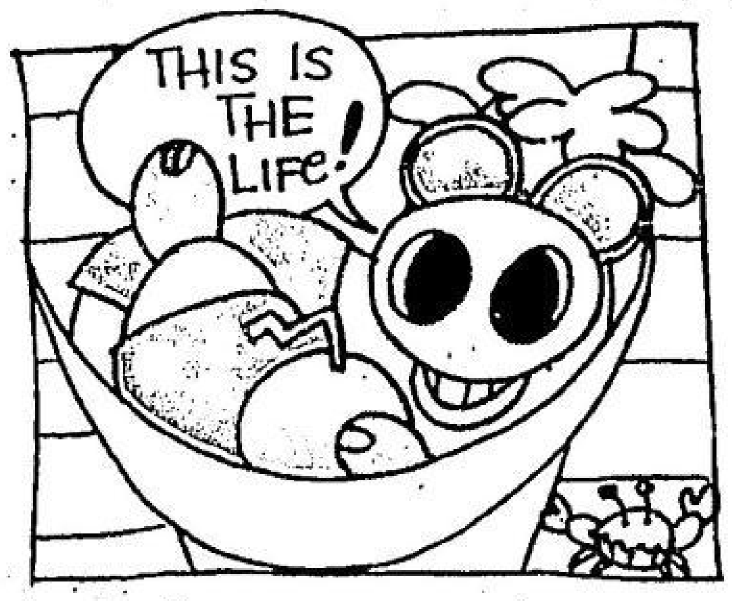

THIS IS THE LIFE!

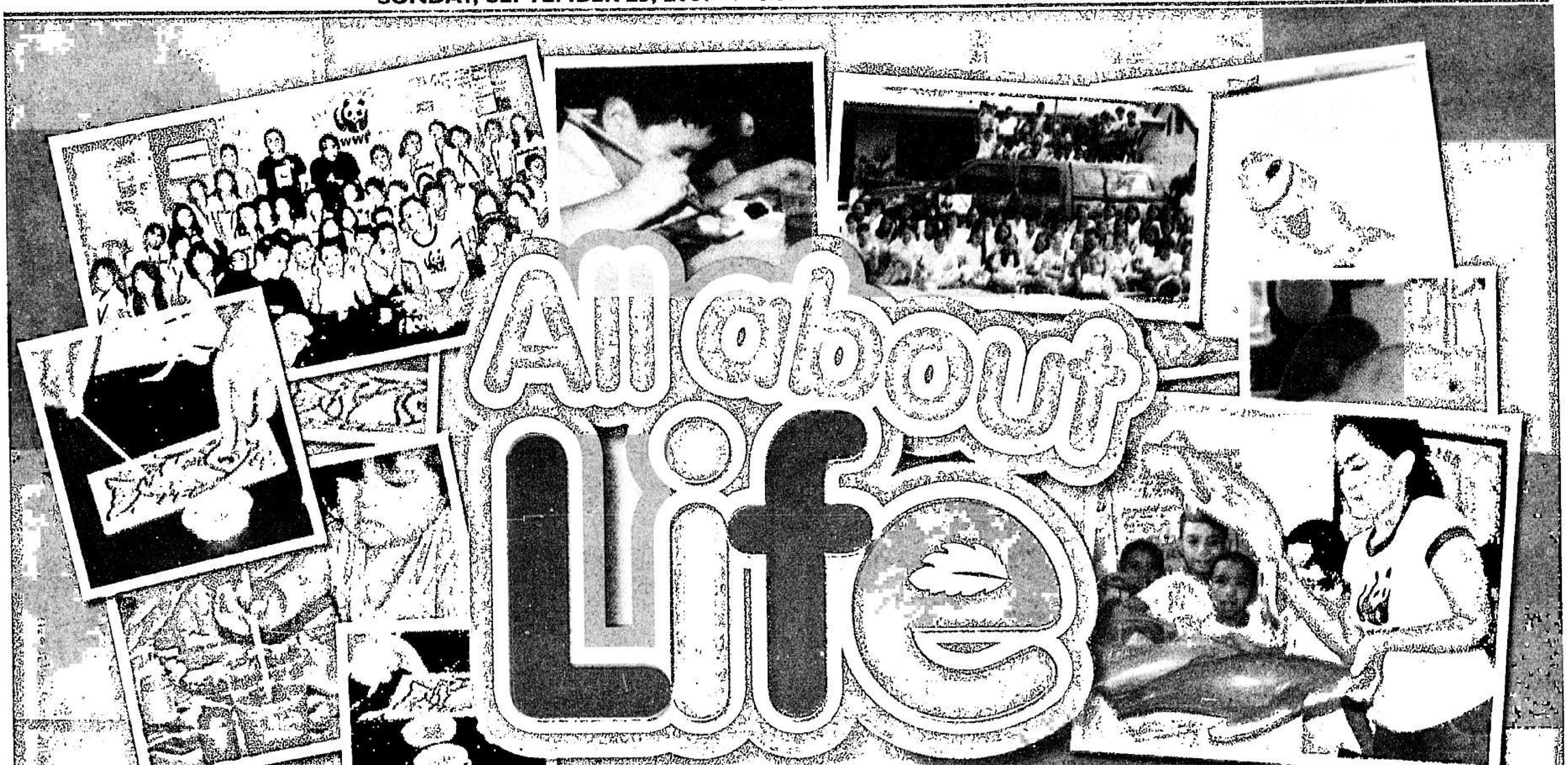
Junior INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 78

E-mail: jl@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE:

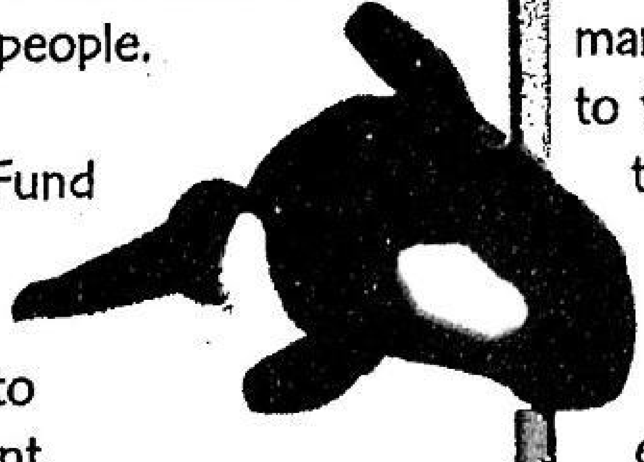
Whose giant foot is this? Turn to page 3 to find out!



All about Life

By Ruth L. Navarra

LIFE COULD MEAN DIFFERENT things for different people.



For World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an environmental organization, Life is educating kids about how to take care of our environment.

Eight years ago, WWF launched Project Learning Interdependently for the Environment (Life). Volunteers go to coastal communities and major cities of our country to raise awareness among kids on how to protect our natural resources.

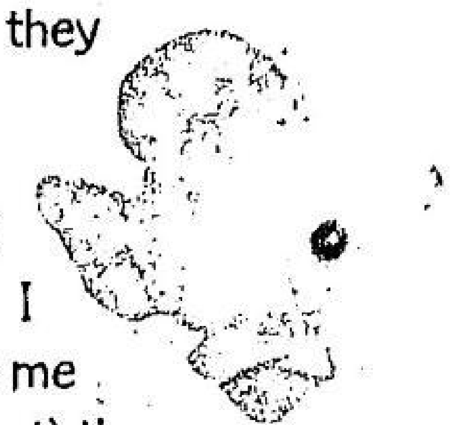
But instead of boring lectures, they make use of posters, scale models, puppet shows, slideshow presentations and videos.

For WWF environment education officer Obel Resurreccion, the challenge is to constantly come up with something interesting.

"I come up with songs and games that explain marine life to the kids," she says. "I always have to find a way to grab their attention." She also teaches them crafts like sculpting clay animals and origami.

Different places have different environmental concerns. In Bataan, she taught kids a song about sea turtles and their life cycle. In Tawi-Tawi, she focused on solid waste and sanitation. In the city, she would give lectures on global warming and climate change.

The kids are also given workbooks full of games and activities that they can do on their own.



"Sometimes, when I return to the community, I would see kids calling out to me and proudly showing me (that) they still remember the songs that they learned," she says.

Teacher Obel adds that the best thing about Project Life is the change in the community. Kids would go home and tell their parents what they learned. The parents, in effect, would be spurred into acting to protect their resources.

"After Project Life, some communities would do beach clean-ups and refrain from eating the eggs of sea turtles," she says. "We impart the message that they can do something about it and that they must. Their future and the future of their children are in their hands."

To date, Project Life has visited more than 100,000 children in 900 schools all over the country including provinces like Bataan, Batangas, Bohol, Cebu, Davao, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Northern Cagayan, Olongapo, Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Pangasinan, Subic Bay, Tawi-Tawi and Zambales.

To know how you can help, visit www.wwf.org.ph or call 920-7923.

Think Out Loud!

What's the coolest thing you've learned?

How the universe was created!—Ma. Franchescha Margaret Cruz, 11, Paco City

I was taught by my parents how to show respect to the elders by saying "po" and "opo."—John Lemuel Corpuz, 9, Makati City

My dad taught me how to play the yoyo. I can now do "walk the dog" and "around the world".—Franco Tristan Estacio IV, 9, Makati City

My best friend taught me how to forgive and forget about a fight.—Janelle Angelica Ong, 12, Paco City

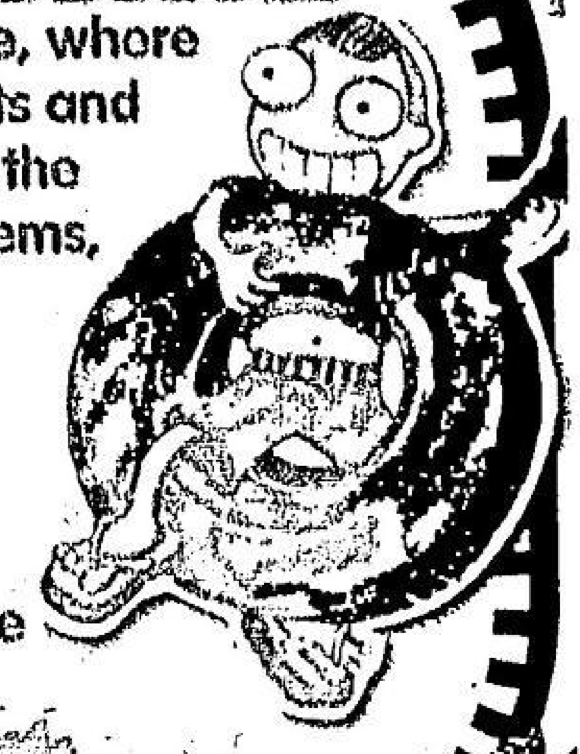
Finding out how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly.—Aldous John Deogracias, 9, Makati City

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings bout anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!



Journal

A President's home

by Juliene F. Concepcion
9 years old, Castillejos, Zambales

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A PRESIDENT'S HOME? ONE afternoon last June, my sister and I had the opportunity to visit the ancestral house of President Ramon Magsaysay.

I saw many things in his house. At the entrance, there was a newly installed bust of the former President. It was made to commemorate his 50th death anniversary last March 17, 2007.

I also saw lots of pictures. There were pictures of President Magsaysay when he was just a small boy, and when he was campaigning for the presidency in 1953.

There were also furniture, clothes, wooden canes, sunglasses and medals. Also on display was a gown worn by his wife during the presidential inauguration. The gown was very pretty.

Aside from seeing things that he owned, I learned many things about Magsaysay. For instance, I found out that Magsaysay was the first Filipino President to wear a Barong Tagalog during his inauguration. From an old news article on display, I read that once, he acted like a traffic aide during a traffic jam. When he was caught driving without a license, he was penalized just like an ordinary citizen.

After spending less than an hour in the ancestral house, I learned that the Man of the Masses who came from Castillejos, Zambales was truly a humble man.

Junior INQUIRER

GRACE M LEUNG
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RUTH L. NAVARRA
Staff Writer
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Editorial Assistant
STEPHANIE BRAVO
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Telephone number: 897-8808 loc. 340 (Editorial) and 534 (Sales).
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2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

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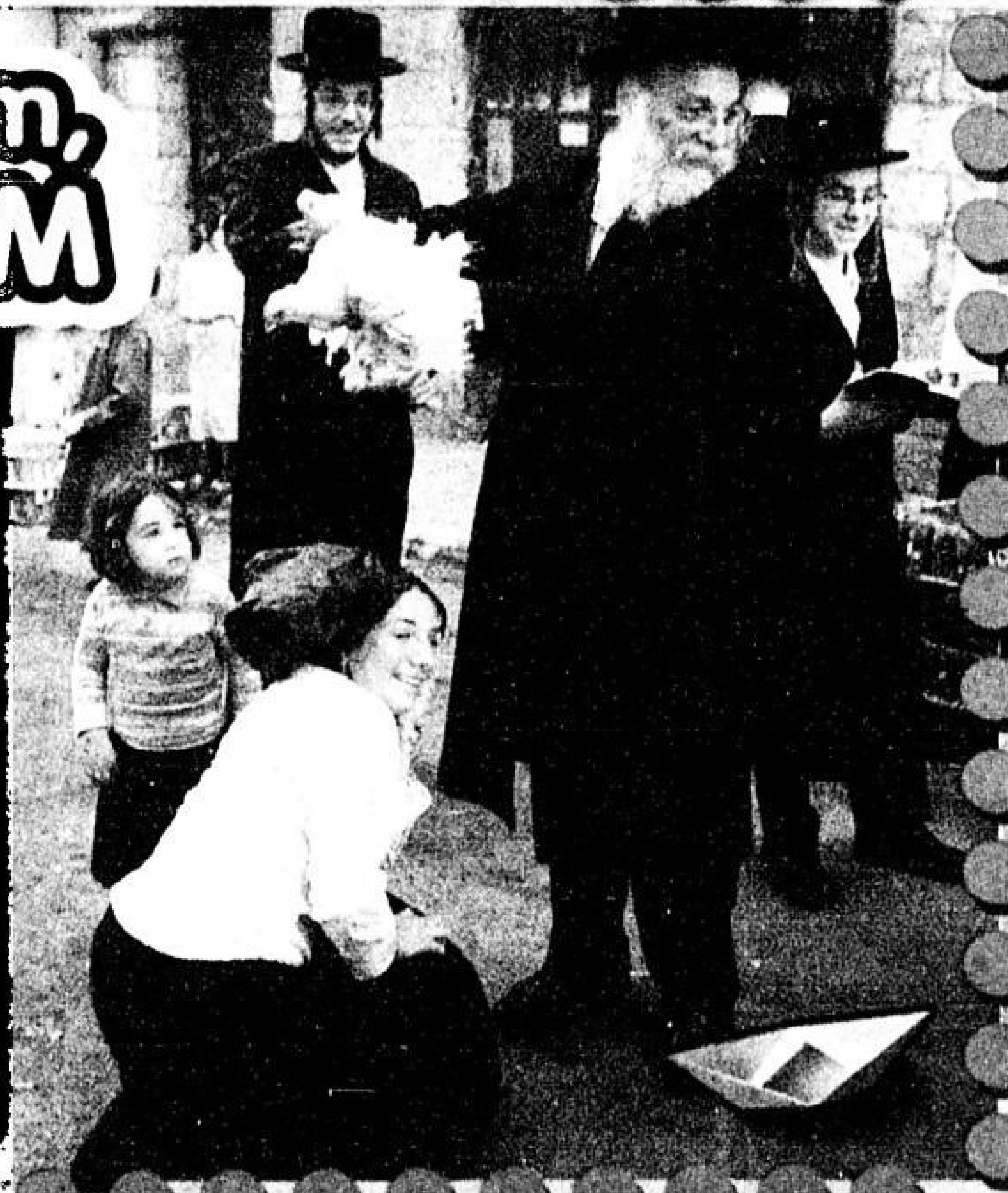
Wassup World?

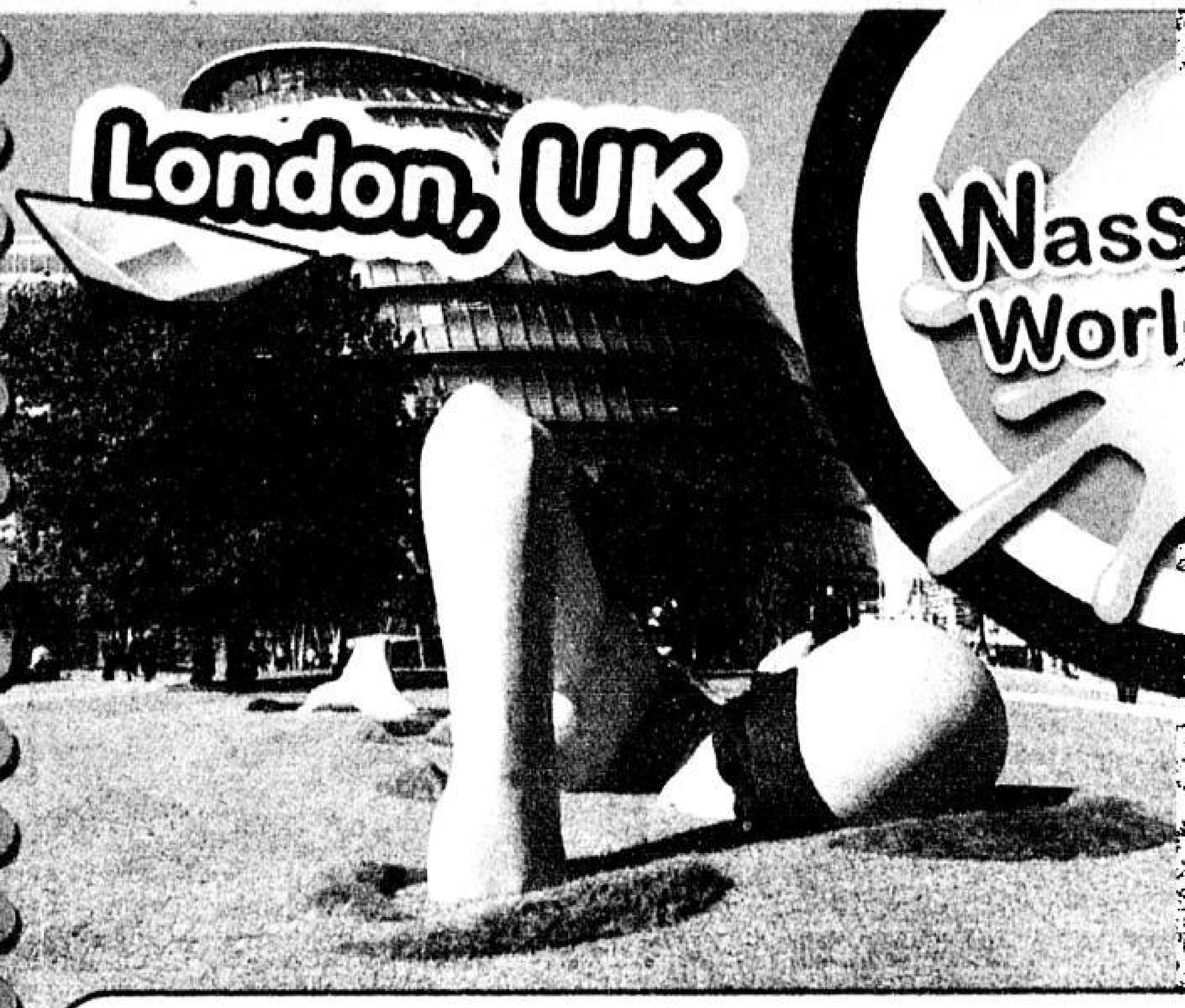
Mea Shearim, JERUSALEM

Why me?

POOR chicken! Not only is she being swung over this girl's head, but according to Jewish beliefs, the ritual is supposed to transfer the sins of the past year to the chicken. The ritual is performed before the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. **AFP**



London, UK



When the sea is green...

...it's either full of seaweed, or it's actually grass. A large statue of a man swimming through the grass on the South Bank of the River Thames was unveiled on Sept. 18. This fixture near Tower Bridge was commissioned by The Discovery Channel to promote its newest reality show, "London Ink". **AP**

Hong Kong, CHINA

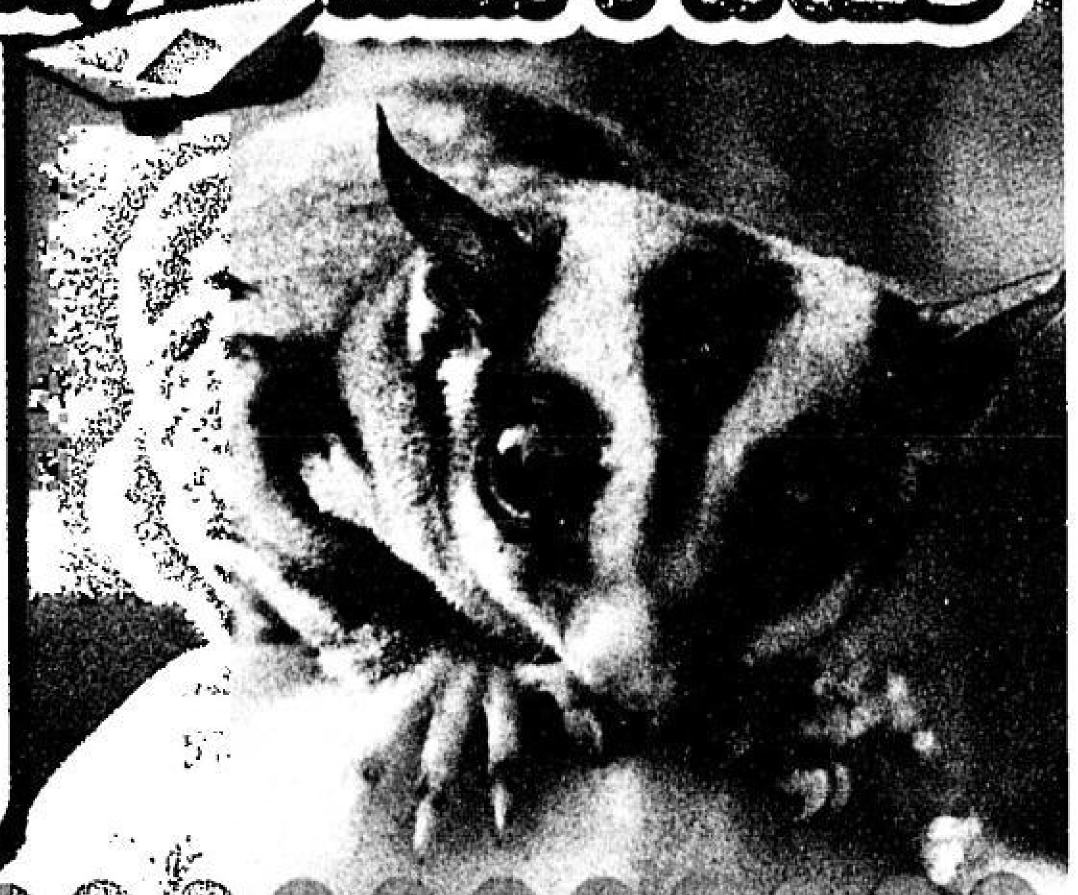
Sky lights

THESE children made their own moons! They took part in a lantern design competition to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival. During this traditional event, Chinese families get together to watch the full moon and hold colorful lanterns. No wonder these kids' faces are all lit up, just like a full moon. **AFP**

Mindanao, PHILIPPINES

Small wonder

MEET the Mindanao flying squirrel! This fist-sized rodent, which can be found only in Mindanao, is just about four inches long. Since it's so small, it's not on any predator's menu. Ah, it's terrific to be tiny! **Dennis Jay Santos/ Inquirer Mindanao.**



Mountain Province, PHILIPPINES

Stylish passengers

YOUNG men clad in traditional wear ride out of the Mountain Province municipal center on Bontoc's 99th foundation day. This Cordillera community encourages new generations to honor their past in the face of modern lifestyles. **EV Espiritu/ Inquirer Northern Luzon**

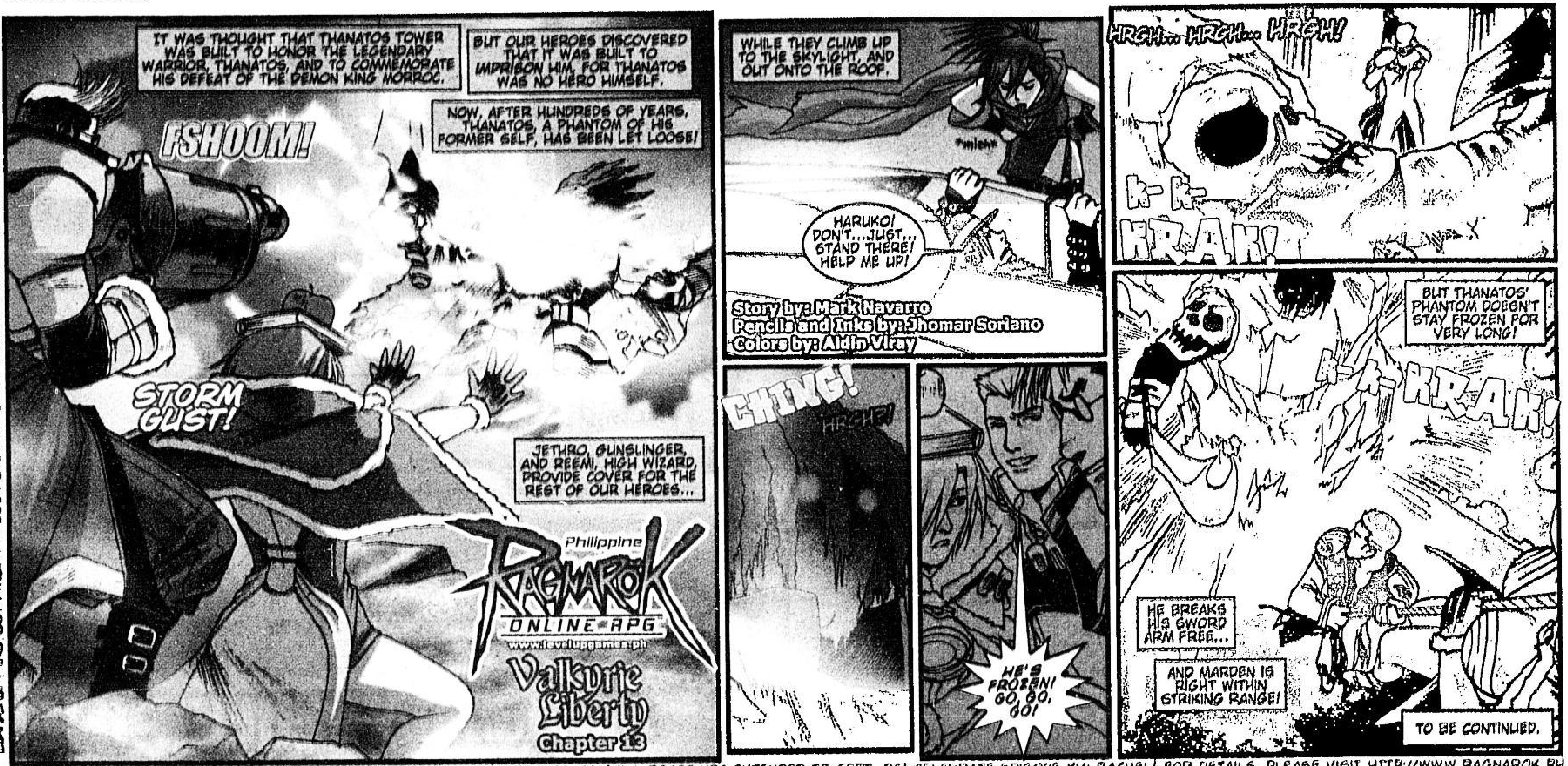
Baghdad, IRAQ

A break in fasting

AT THE ABDUL Khader al-Kilani mosque, Iraqi children line up for food which the mosque provides to poor families during Ramadan. Ramadan is a time when Muslims fast during daylight hours, but due to security reasons, the donated food was distributed during the day. **AP**

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES


IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THANATOS TOWER WAS BUILT TO HONOR THE LEGENDARY WARRIOR, THANATOS, AND TO COMMEMORATE HIS DEFEAT OF THE DEMON KING MORROC.
BUT OUR HEROES DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS BUILT TO IMPRISON HIM, FOR THANATOS WAS NO HERO HIMSELF.
NOW, AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS, THANATOS, A PHANTOM OF HIS FORMER SELF, HAS BEEN LET LOOSE!
FSHOOM!
STORM GUST!
JETHRO, GUNSLINGER, AND REEMI, HIGH WIZARD, PROVIDE COVER FOR THE REST OF OUR HEROES...
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www.levelupgames.ph
Valkyrie Liberty
Chapter 13
WHILE THEY CLIMB UP TO THE SKYLIGHT, AND OUT ONTO THE ROOF.
wlch
HARUKO! DON'T...JUST... STAND THERE! HELP ME UP!
Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Aldin Viray
CHING!
HRGH!
HE'S FROZEN! GO, GO, GO!
HRGH... HRGH... HRGH!
K- K- KRAK!
BUT THANATOS' PHANTOM DOESN'T STAY FROZEN FOR VERY LONG!
K- K- KRAK!
HE BREAKS HIS SWORD ARM FREE...
AND MARDEN IS RIGHT WITHIN STRIKING RANGE!
TO BE CONTINUED.

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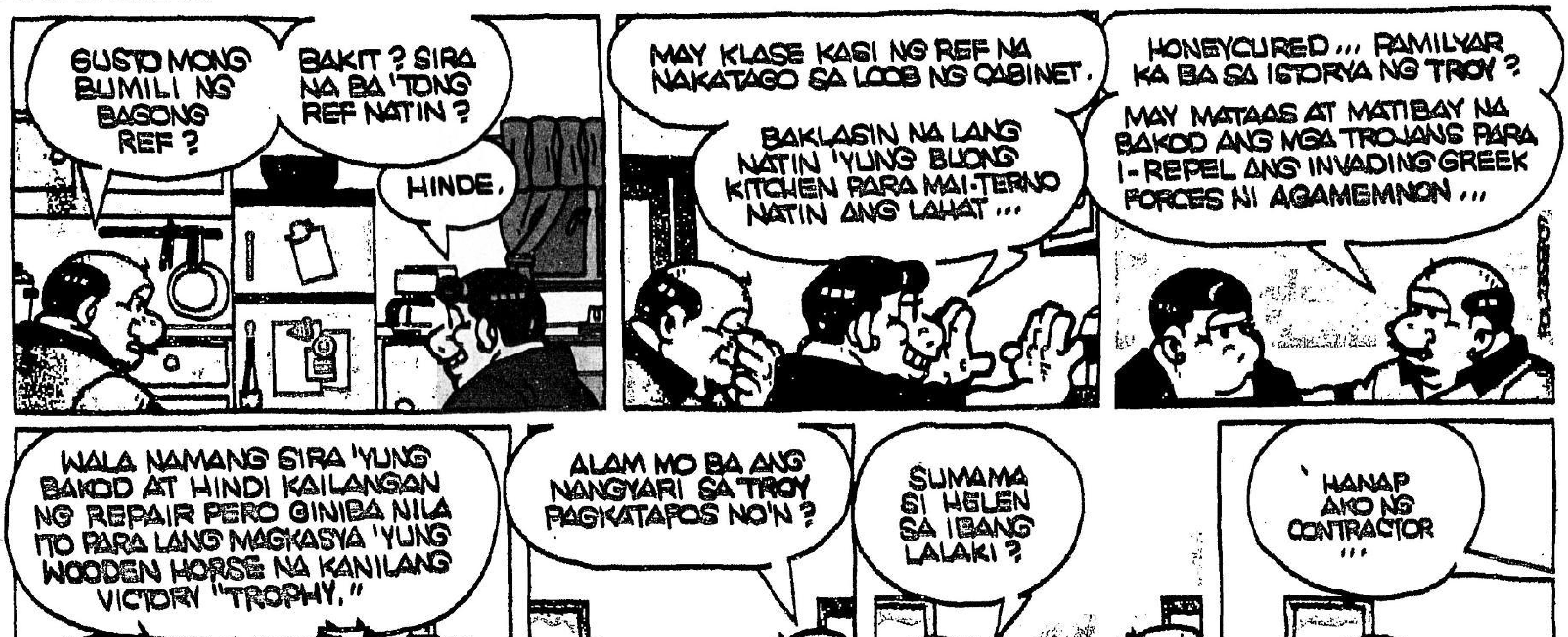
PUGAD BABOY

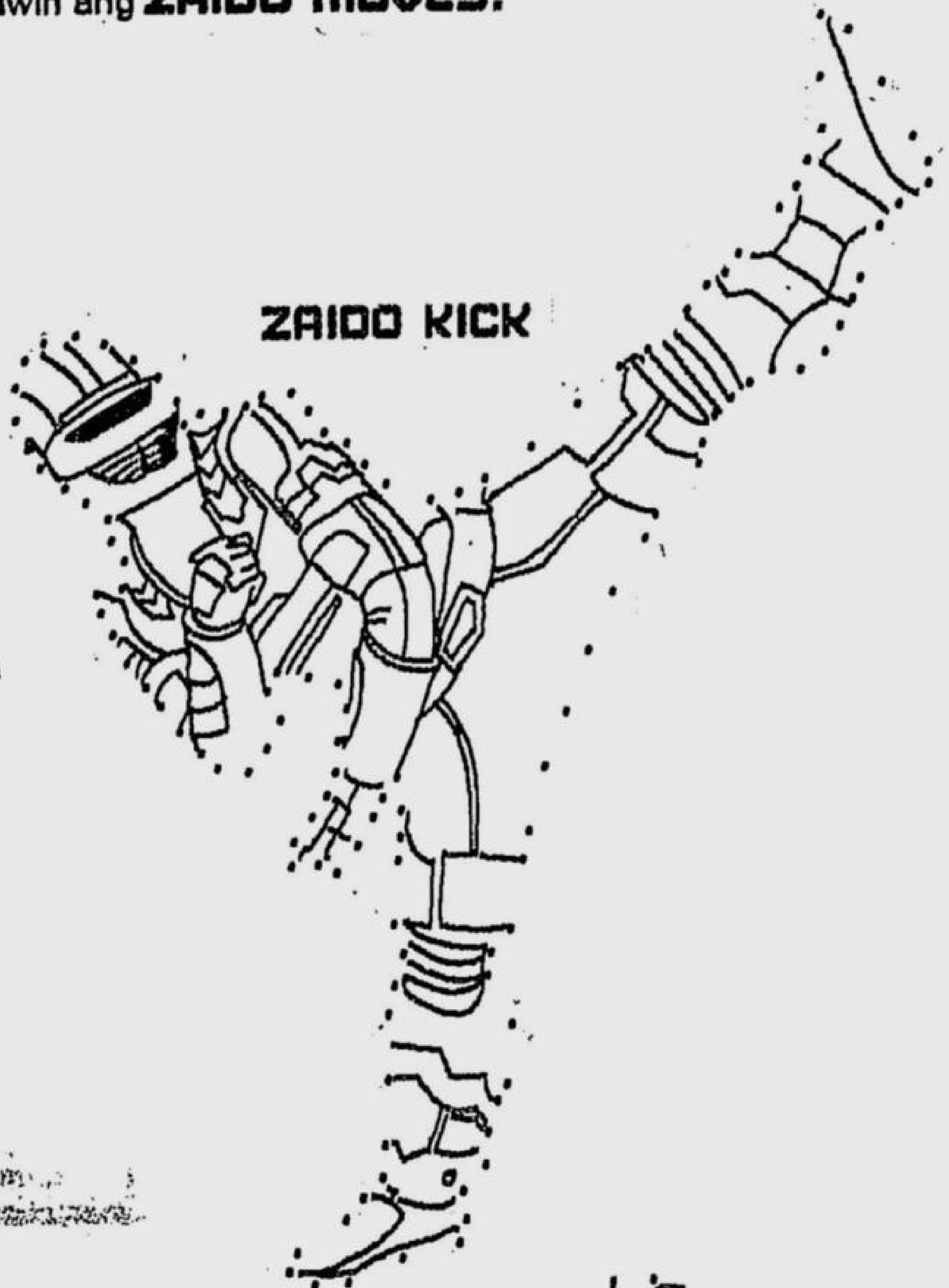
BY POL MEDINA JR.


SUSTO MONG BUMILI NG BAGONG REF ?
BAKIT ? SIRA NA BA 'TONG REF NATIN ?
HINDE.
MAY KLASE KASI NG REF NA NAKATAGO SA LOOB NG CABINET.
BAKLASIN NA LANG NATIN 'YUNG BUONG KITCHEN PARA MAI-TERNO NATIN ANG LAHAT ...
HONEYCURED ... FAMILYAR KA BA SA ISTORYA NG TROY ?
MAY MATAAS AT MATIBAY NA BAKOD ANG MGA TROJANS PARA I-REPEL ANG INVADING GREEK FORCES NI AGAMEMNON ...
WALA NAMANG SIRA 'YUNG BAKOD AT HINDI KAILANGAN NG REPAIR PERO GINIBA NILA ITO PARA LANG MAGKASYA 'YUNG WOODEN HORSE NA KANILANG VICTORY "TROPHY."
ALAM MO BA ANG NANGYARI SA TROY PAGKATAPOS NO'N ?
SUMAMA SI HELEN SA IBANG LALAKI ?
HANAP AKO NG CONTRACTOR ...

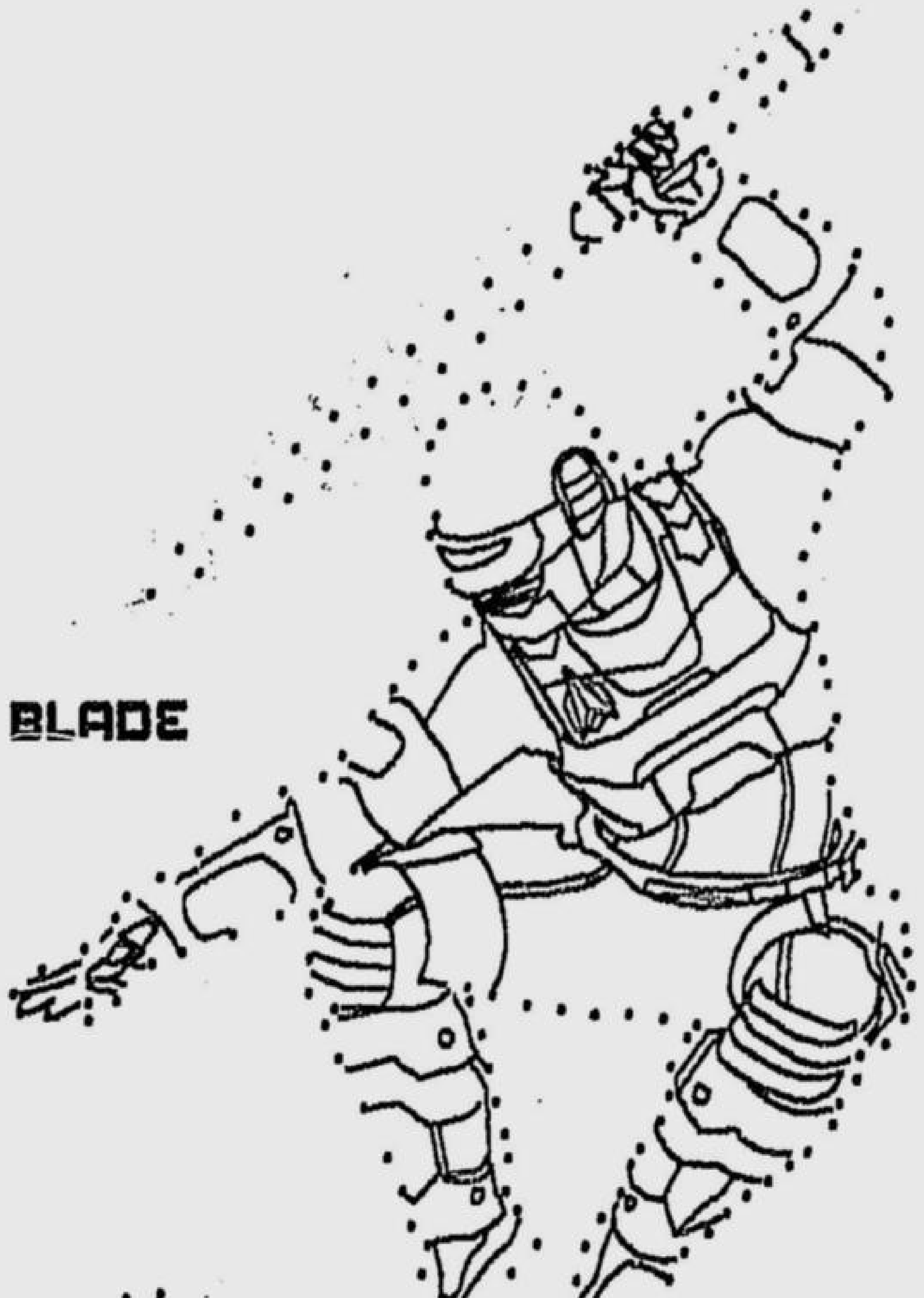
MAGING SUSUNOD NA ZAIDO, PULIS PANGKALAWAKAN!

ZAIDO TRAINING

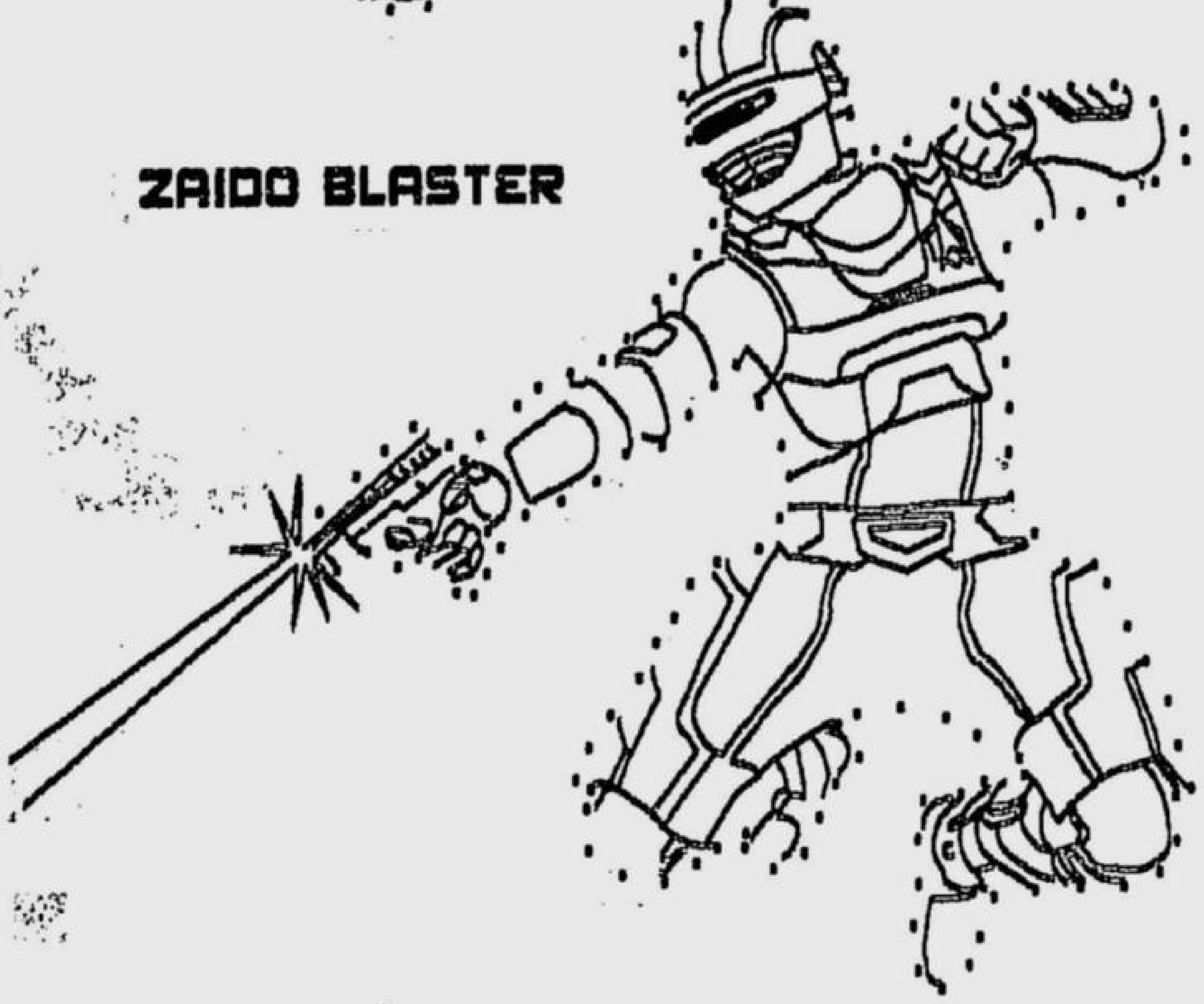
1. Connect the dots habang suot ang **ZAIDO MASK** mula sa page 8.
2. Gawin ang **ZAIDO MOVES!**



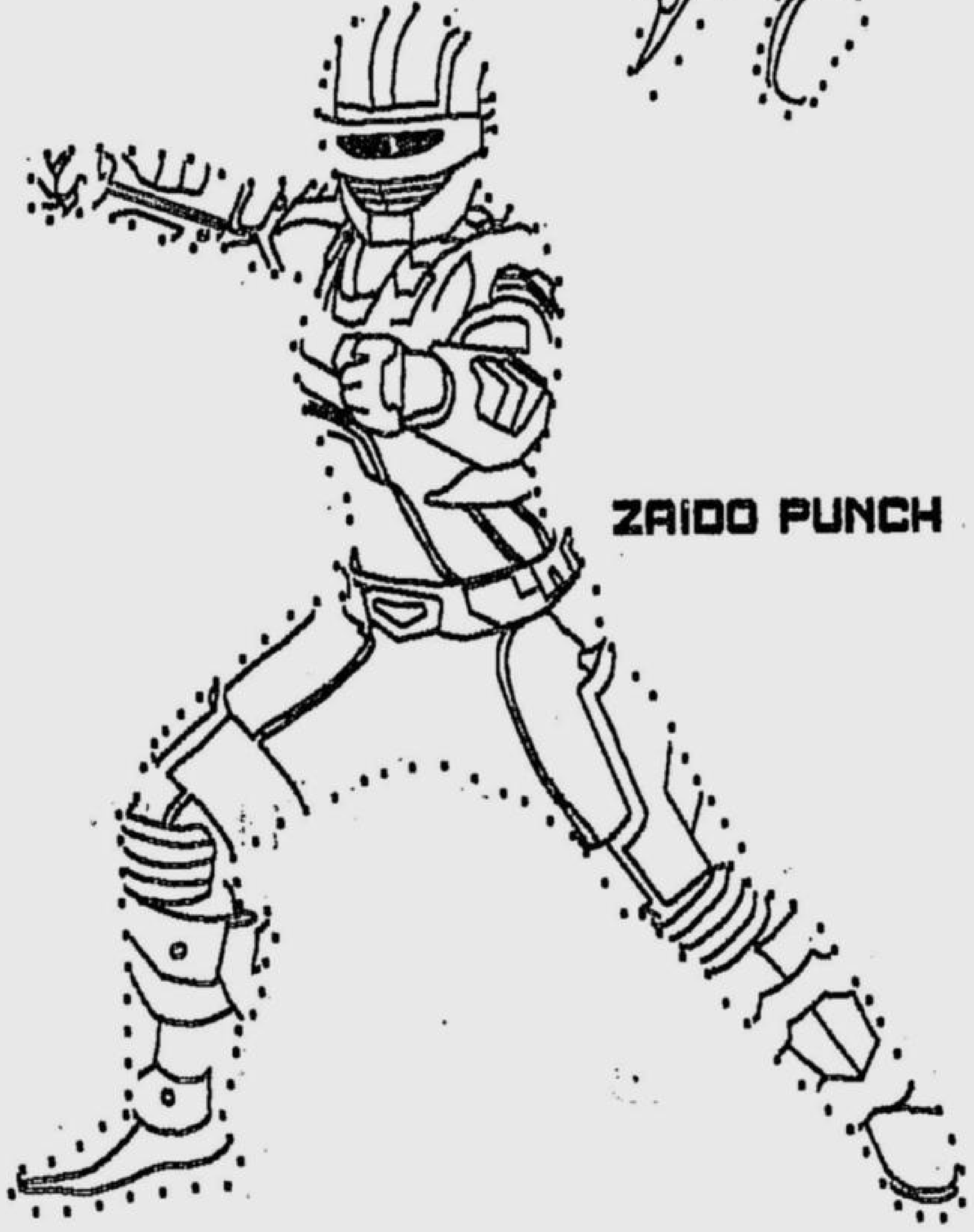
ZAIDO KICK



ZAIDO BLADE



ZAIDO BLASTER



ZAIDO PUNCH

ZAIDO
PULIS PANGKALAWAKAN

ISA KA NANG GANAP NA ZAIDO!

IPAGTATANGGOL ANG SANDAIGDIGAN SIMULA BUKAS NG GABI SA GMA Telebabad

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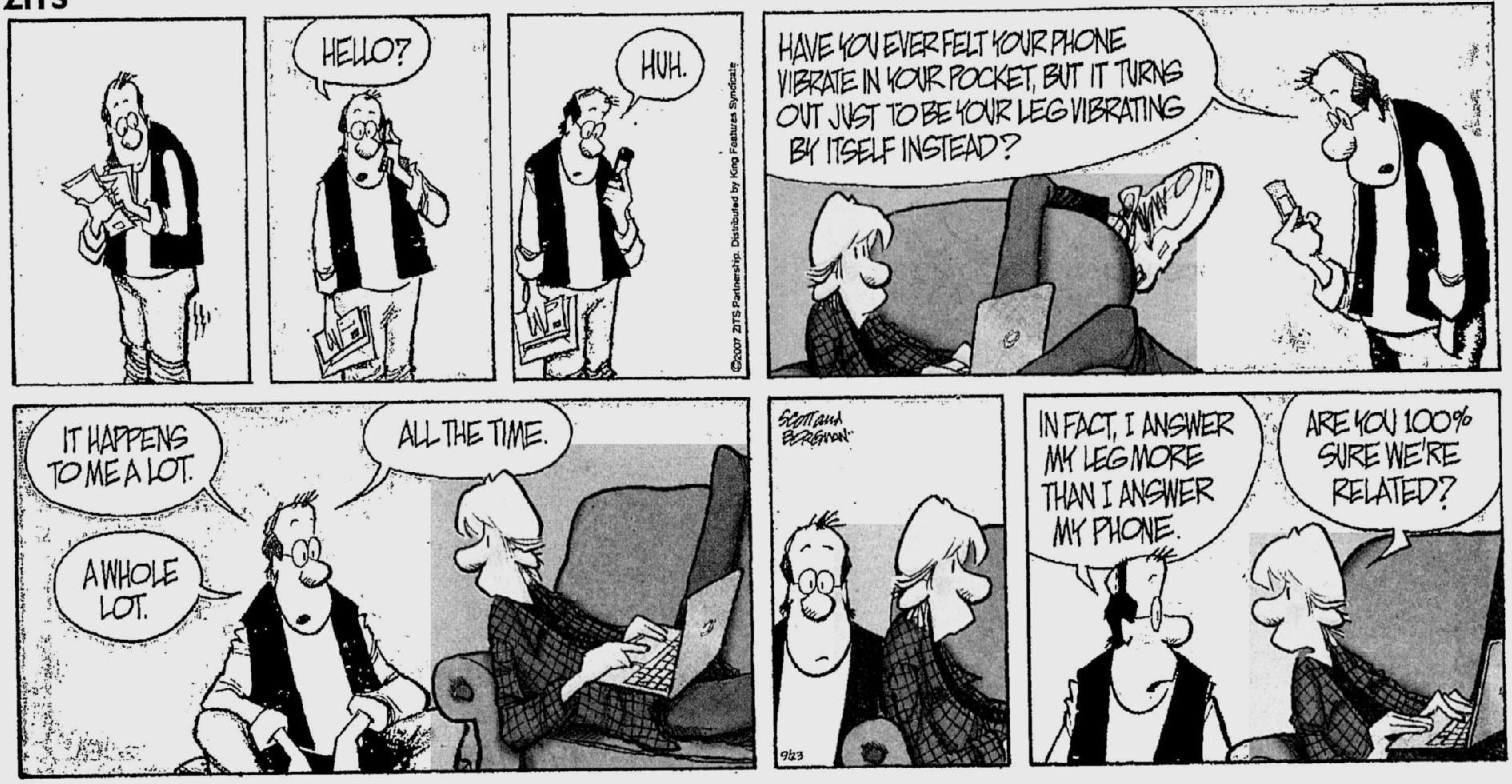
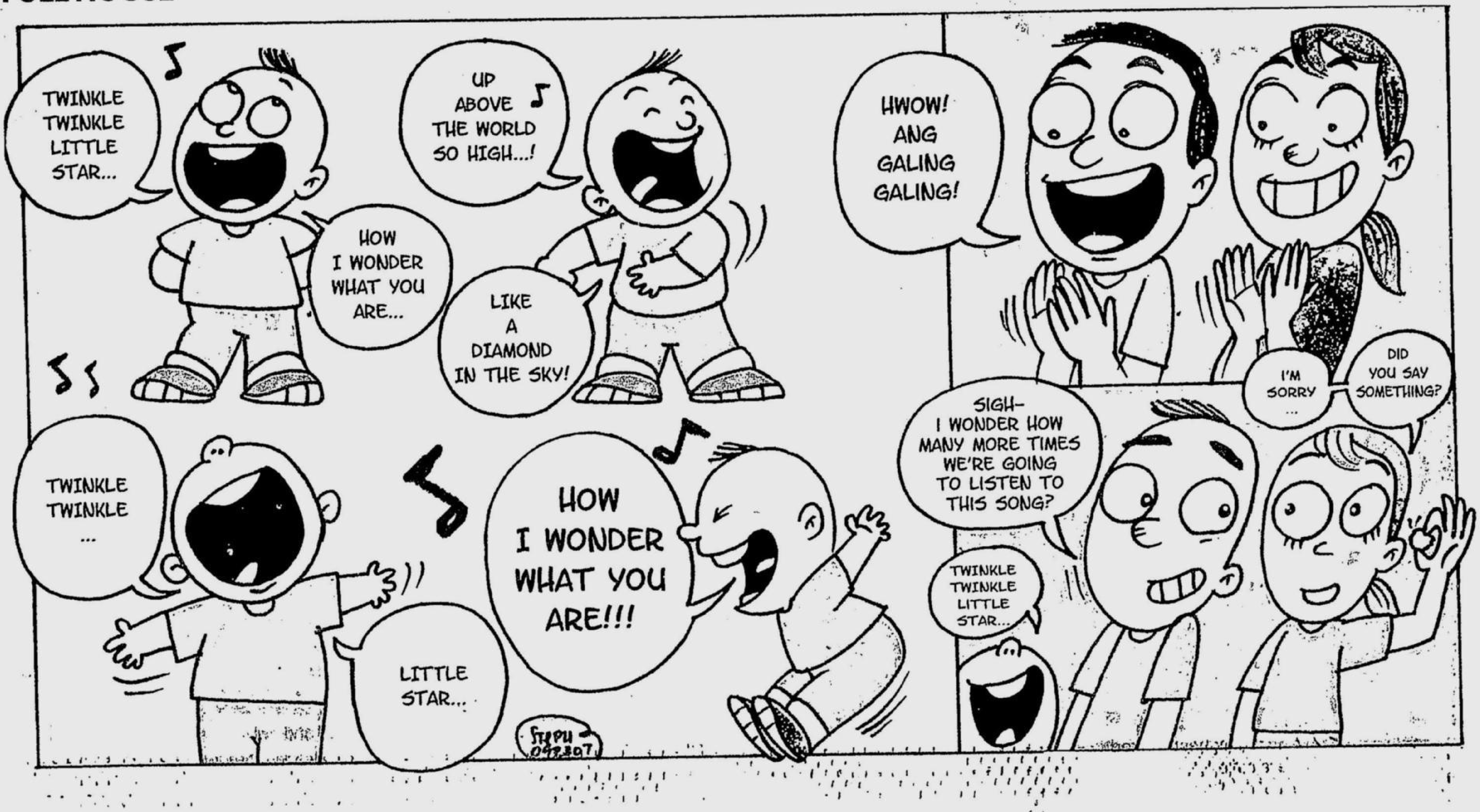
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


HELLO?
HUH.
©2007 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
HAVE YOU EVER FELT YOUR PHONE VIBRATE IN YOUR POCKET, BUT IT TURNS OUT JUST TO BE YOUR LEG VIBRATING BY ITSELF INSTEAD?
IT HAPPENS TO ME A LOT.
A WHOLE LOT.
ALL THE TIME.
SCOTT and BORGMAN
9/23
IN FACT, I ANSWER MY LEG MORE THAN I ANSWER MY PHONE.
ARE YOU 100% SURE WE'RE RELATED?

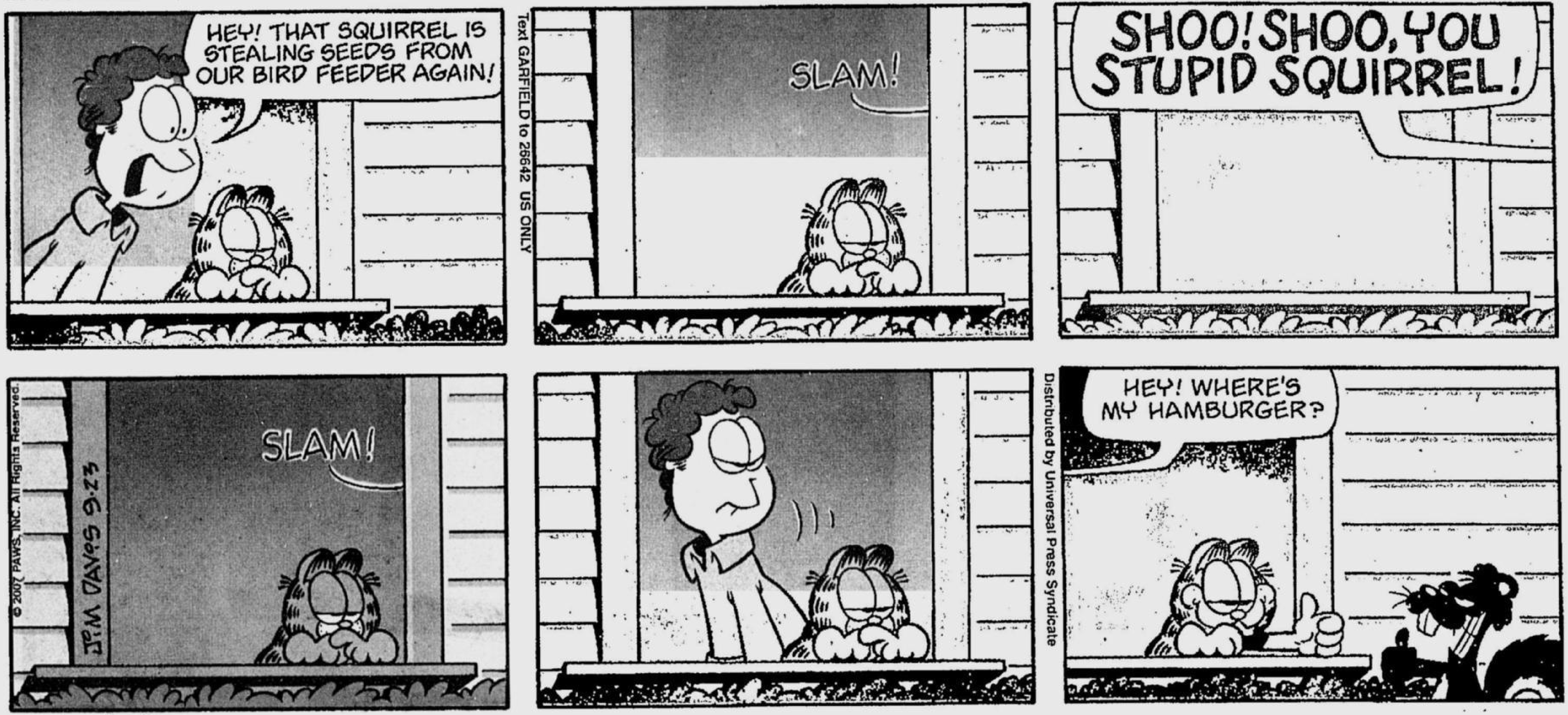
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR...
UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH...!
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE...
LIKE A DIAMOND IN THE SKY!
HWOW! ANG GALING GALING!
TWINKLE TWINKLE ...
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE!!!
LITTLE STAR...
STEPH
I'M SORRY ...
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
SIGH— I WONDER HOW MANY MORE TIMES WE'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO THIS SONG?
TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR...

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


HEY! THAT SQUIRREL IS STEALING SEEDS FROM OUR BIRD FEEDER AGAIN!
SLAM!
SHOO! SHOO, YOU STUPID SQUIRREL!
SLAM!
JIM DAVIS 9.23
HEY! WHERE'S MY HAMBURGER?

Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY

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Zaido, the champions of everything good in the Universe

"Ako ang alagad ng kabutihan. Ako ang bantay ng kalayaan. Ako ang Pulis Pangkalawakan. (I am the force of good. I am the guardian of freedom. I am the Space Police)."

On Sept. 24, join the millions who will utter this oath along with the heroes of "Zaido: Pulis Pangkalawakan", the newest "fanta-serye" program of Kapuso Network GMA 7.

The "Zaido" story traces its roots from the heroics of the warrior Shaider who vanquished the cruel and tyrannical Le-ar, ruler of Kuuma. With Shaider's victory, peace had been restored across the Universe. And with the help of the Galactic Force, special elite guardians who patrol the Universe, peace had been maintained even after Shaider's passing.

But the threat returns. The Galactic Force learns that Le-ar has returned, and the disgraced ruler has one thing on his mind: take back absolute power at all cost.

"Zaido: Pulis Pangkalawakan" begins with the new generation of heroic warriors who are dedicated to follow Shaider's lifelong ideal of upholding peace and justice in the Universe.

These new-generation warriors are members of the Pulis Pangkalawakan (Space Police), and the highest-ranked of these warriors are called Zaido, who represent the best of the Pulis Pangkalawakan.

Trained under the fatherly Commander Zion (Ian de Leon) of the Galactic Force Academy, the Galactic Force (GF) leans on the individual strengths of three Zaido: Gallian (Dennis Trillo), the Blue Zaido; Alexis (Marky Cielo), the Green Zaido; and Cervano (Aljur Abrenica), the Red Zaido.

Gallian is the Captain of the Zaido. He is considered the Force's best pilot. Orphaned during Le-ar's rule and taken into the Force's care and training early in his life, Gallian had been the first of the Pulis Pangkalawakan to achieve Zaido status.

Alexis' unrelenting and steadfast pursuit to fight evil is borne out of a traumatic past-he had witnessed his father being murdered. Coming from a poor family, Alexis often finds himself on the receiving end of his peers' social insensitivities. Nevertheless, he has consistently proven himself deserving of the title of Zaido.

Brash, impatient, and spoiled by the excesses of a wealthy family, Cervano has no care in the world but to impress the girls (a goal he often succeeds in). But he soon becomes an integral member of the Zaido, where his physical superiority becomes an immense asset.

Gallian and the rest of the Galactic Force must find other Zaido in the Universe to consolidate their forces to defeat Le-ar and his minions.

The sinister Le-ar is not short on lethal allies, as well. Amasonang Kahel (Vaness del Moral), the most agile of all Amazons, is a dead shot with any gun. Amasonang Lila is a deadly foe with her (LJ Reyes) lightning-fast moves combined with her kali. Amasonang Puti (Arci Munos), the so-called "conscience" of the Amazons, may have her loyalty questioned, but her powers are never in doubt. Amasonang Rosas (Melissa Avelino) is the strongest of all Amazons and a martial arts expert. Leading them is Amasonang Itim (Iwa Moto), an expert in all bladed weapons.

Le-ar is served by his unquestioning Kuuma warriors led by Drigo (Jay Manalo). Along with chief advisor and Kuuma high priest Ida (Paolo Ballesteros)-whose unmatched beauty is surpassed only by the rottenness of her soul-Le-ar and his minions will stop at nothing to regain power over the Universe.

Le-ar himself has formidable powers. He is the only one who can open the Time Space Warp to strengthen the Kuuma warriors.

Adding color to the battle between good and evil are the affairs of the heart of the warrior heroes. At the center of a romantic struggle is Amy (Kris Bernal), a student at the Academy and love interest of Alexis and Cervano.

And then there is Lyka (Karel Marquez), Commander Zion's daughter and flight instructor and assistant to Gallian. She secretly harbors feelings for Gallian.

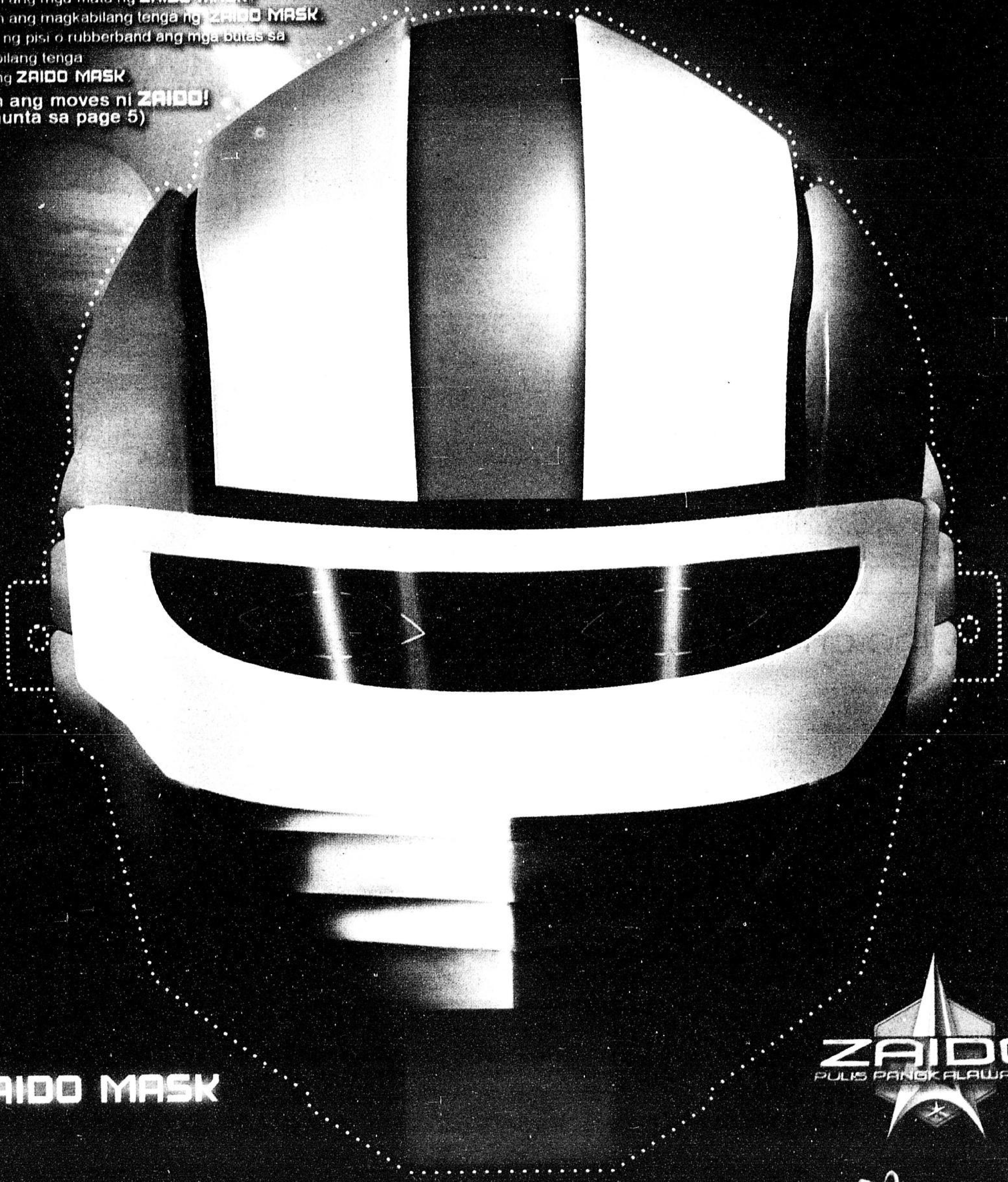
Colorful characters will also spice up the series. Bawaw, a Kuuma beast, brings a carnival band. Oggy (Robert Villar) is the youngest sibling of Alexis. Bird-like Ulla is a close ally of the Zaido. Thor (Dion Ignacio) is a troublesome policeman who causes headaches for cousin Alexis. Alvaro (Raymart Santiago) is Alexis' trouble-making brother who is abducted by unidentified entities. In Alvaro's absence, girlfriend Carmela (Diana Zubiri) sets her sights on Gallian. But Thor won't leave her alone.

Ramiro (Tirso Cruz III) has stood as Alexis' family's guardian ever since the patriarch died. Beneath the kindly exterior, however, there seems to lurk a scheming, sinister motive. Helen (Lorna Tolentino) is Alexis' loving mother who holds a secret about Alvaro. Rounding up the cast is Mona (Lovi Poe), a writer who has a secret love for childhood friend Alexis.

Follow the never-ending battle between good and evil, as our heroes and their villains take the war to the Universe! Watch the heart-pounding action and drama every night starting Sept. 24, only at GMA 7.

MAGING SUSUNOD NA ZAIDO, PULIS PANGKALAWAKAN!

1. Idikit ang pahinang ito sa cardboard.
2. Sundan ang dots paikot ng **ZAIDO MASK** habang ginugupit ito.
3. Butasan ang mga mata ng **ZAIDO MASK**.
4. Butasan ang magkabilang tenga ng **ZAIDO MASK**.
5. Lagyan ng pisi o rubberband ang mga butas sa magkabilang tenga.
6. Isuot ang **ZAIDO MASK**.
7. **Gawin ang moves ni ZAIDO!**
   (Pumunta sa page 5)



ZAIDO MASK

ZAIDO
PULIS PANGKALAWAKAN

IPAGTATANGGOL ANG SANDAIGDIGAN SIMULA BUKAS NG GABI SA GMA Telebabad

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*sunday*INQU

September 23, 2007

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By Candice Palenzuela-Dalizon
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

Tooting his own horn

Once named a top police officer for solving two kidnapping cases, this PMAer and cum laude Law graduate can very well trumpet his long list of achievements. Instead, he chooses to play '50s and '60s classics on his free time

Soul Patrol: Pagdilao hits the horn

WHAT do tough men in tough jobs do on their off hours?

Late night clients of a coffee shop on Morato Street in Quezon City thought the two men who got up to join the pianist on the makeshift stage one evening looked vaguely familiar, but they couldn't say for sure in the dim light. One started strumming the guitar while the other took up the trumpet.

The audience clapped politely after a few songs, but as the trio continued to play deep into the night, mostly songs from the '50s and '60s, their appreciation grew, especially as they soon realized that the two were not regular wind and string performers.

One of them was Arturo Lomibao, who was chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) before he retired last year. The other was Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., the PNP spokesman.

Were they checking out the waters for a possible career-shift? For Pagdilao at least, the performance at the coffee shop was not the first time he had put his musical talent on public display. On his 50th birthday last February, he began the celebration by appearing on stage while playing the drums to Kool and the Gang's "Celebration." He later blared on the trumpet the classic song, "The Nearness of You," one of his favorites.

"If books and knowledge fill up my mind, music is what fills my soul," he explains.

Pagdilao's love of music comes naturally, as he comes from a musically-inclined family. His mother, Anunciacion, a teacher before she became mayor of Pinili, Ilocos Norte, had taken up formal piano lessons. His younger sister, Joy, a piano teacher in the US, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Music. Several of his brothers play the guitar and have sung in church choirs at one time or another.

His own children are also into music. It was, in fact, his 21-year-old daughter Francesca Rosella who inspired him and eventually taught him to play the drums.

"She took formal lessons in voice and piano and she also plays the drums," Pagdilao recalls. "So I thought, why don't I learn to play them, too?" The police spokesman has been playing the drums for nearly a year now, and continues to hone his skills by listening to songs and practicing with his drum set at home every chance he gets.

A note reader, he taught himself to play the trumpet. "It's actually harder to play than the drums, because you need to have air. You should have strong lungs, something that's difficult to develop. I want to practice more if I have the time," he adds.

But time is a luxury these days because of his day job. A 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Pagdilao was the class "baron" and ranked 20th in the batch. The following year, he attended the Royal Marines Commando course in the United Kingdom, becoming the first Philippine Constabulary officer to complete the tough four-month training for selected graduates of the world's top military and police schools. He then went on to pursue a degree in law at the University of Sto. Tomas, graduating cum laude in 1987.

A field officer for most of his career, he figured in the news twice in 1999. The first time was when, as Caloocan City police chief, he led the rescue of Filipino-Chinese businessman Robert Uy, from kidnappers. Four of the suspects were killed in a shootout and Pagdilao later returned to Uy the P2 million ransom which had been paid for his release.

Months later, he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines. After several years, this time as Cavite police director, he solved another kidnapping case and rescued the town mayor of Alfonso, Cavite from his abductors.

For his achievements, Pagdilao was promoted thrice, eventually becoming the first in his class to make it as senior superintendent. In 2005, Lomibao, who was about to be promoted PNP chief, asked him to be the organization's spokesman. Pagdilao was then the deputy director for operations at the Central Police District (now known as the Quezon City Police District).

"In all my previous jobs, I did not have to speak to prove my worth. My actions spoke

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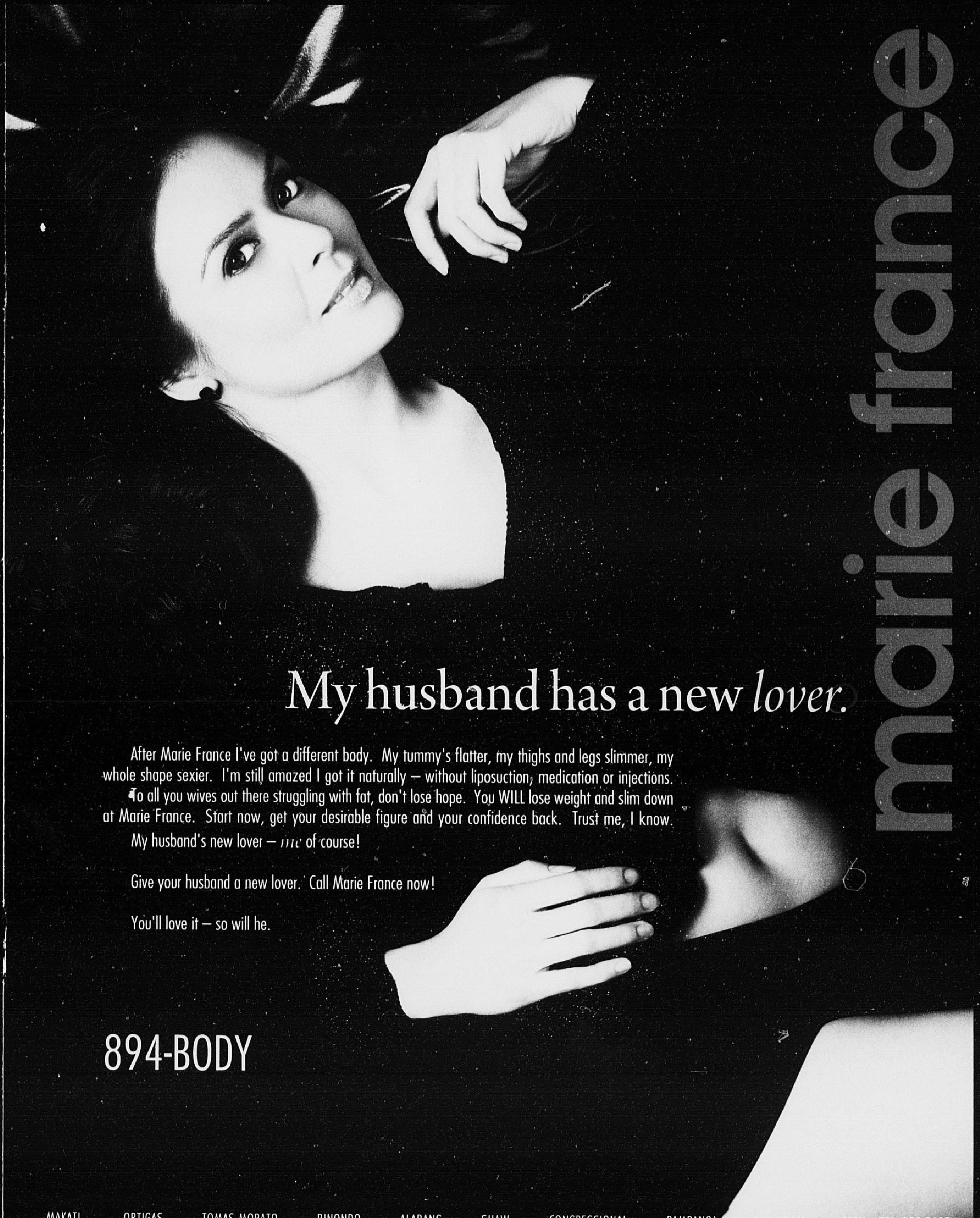
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Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Living up to its soaring price tab

The commitment to freshness more than makes up for the sky-high prices at Tsukiji

Ocean treat: sashimi

A TALL man wearing whites greets us with a big smile as we enter the quiet restaurant. "Haro," he says pleasantly, bobbing his head a little. "Hello," we greet back this man who charmingly reminds me of Alfredo Linguini in the movie "Ratatouille," except the guy before me is a smiling, calmer, Asian version without the chef's hat that housed the rat cum chef underneath.

His name is Toshiro Okajima, chef of the restaurant Tsukiji on Pasay Road for 11 years now. Unlike the hapless Linguini, this chef knows his cuisine.

"I'd like some soba, please," I announced with restrained excitement as I sat down. I'd been obsessing over soba noodles for over a week, inspired by my current reading on Japanese cuisine. I have just learned that soba-making is not an easy craft to master, as buckwheat is not as elastic as ordinary wheat, making the 1,000-year old tradition of soba-making a much revered practice.

As with many other Japanese delicacies, the creation of soba follows not only a particular method but a discipline in both the kneading and the cutting of the dough that takes years to master. Few people maintain the practice today, with less than 10% of the 30,000 or so soba houses in Japan still making handmade soba from buckwheat to bowl, so I was more than pleased to learn that at Tsukiji, Chef Okajima actually makes the noodles from scratch, using buckwheat flour flown in from Japan, and kneading the dough himself. Unfortunately, my romanticized picture of a *sobalier* (a soba *sommelier*) with a machete-like knife achieving perfect 1.3 mm noodles in spite of the difficult elasticity of buckwheat faded upon learning that Chef Okajima uses a machine to cut the noodles for efficiency and ease. Nevertheless, the soba, served at this restaurant with a line up of choices to accompany the noodles—scrambled egg, poached egg, shrimp tempura, beef—was quite satisfactory.

After my noodle fix, the explanation of why only monks and samurai were allowed to eat soba in the Edo era still escaped me. But I did find an explanation for the longevity of Tsukiji in spite of the sky-high prices on its menu. The secret is a commitment to freshness that few other establishments in the country have matched. The soba is only one example. Practically everything in the restaurant, down to the wasabi and the salt, is fresh and comes straight from Japan, with chef-owner J Gamboa sometimes doing the buying himself. "Did you know that in Japan, women are not allowed to hold the fish that will be sold because women have warmer hands and it is believed that this might ruin the fish?" Chef J gives me a few tips on Japanese wet market culture, then proceeds to share how he gets discounts. "These Japanese vendors, a lot of them are married to Filipinas so I just bring Filipino goodies and we end up trading or I get huge discounts because they want the *pasalubong* for their wives." Talk about Pinoy charm. I remember his words on another visit, as I take in bites of my geoduck (pronounced "goo-i-duck") clam sashimi, which the waitress informs me just arrived from Japan the night before. I must have been in absolute reverie because as I savored the crunchy yet tender texture of the mirugai, and the fresh, delicately salty taste that made me understand why other writers have described it as "a taste of the ocean," my sister snickered and said, "*Naks,* feel *na* feel!" Heh!

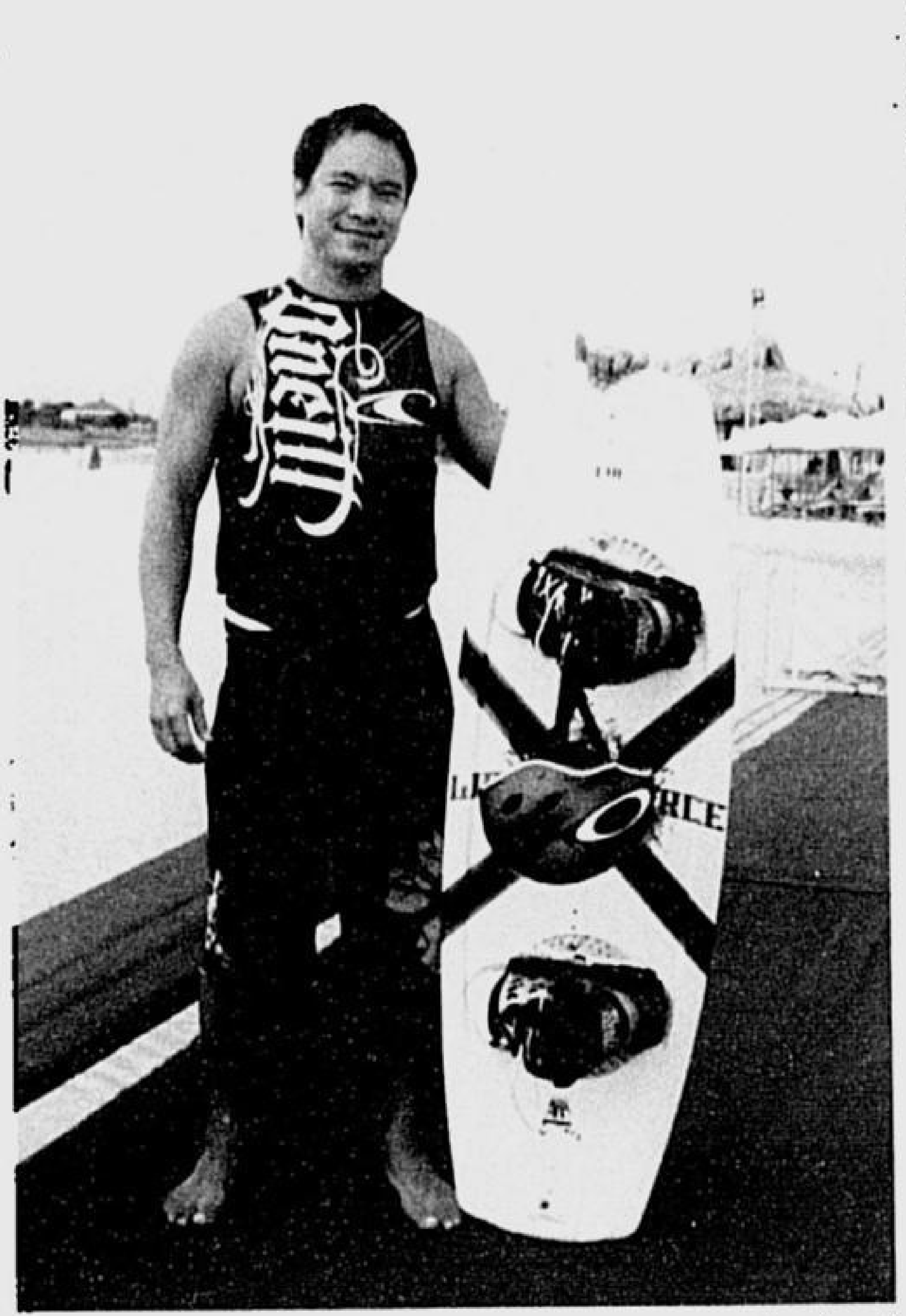
But she could not keep me from smiling in quiet appreciation over the giant (it is the largest burrowing clam in the world) and geriatric clam (they grow as old as 150 years). Each bite I took of the magnificent mollusk took me to the sea. It was absolutely refreshing on that hot day. But not everybody likes clams, so while I had a beautiful out-of-body experience with my P880 aptly-priced sashimi, my sister picked on her tempura. She had ordered an assorted tempura platter that presented three little seafood pieces and the rest were vegetables. "*Kalabasa at iba pa* (squash and so on). P660." It was her sorry karma, heh-heh. Lesson learned: you don't go to Tsukiji for the tempura. Even assuming the veggies or even the shrimp or prawns came from Japan, the freshness is drowned in oil, not worth the

(continued on page 12)

By Jasmine W. Payo

Waking up to Wakeboarding

A combination of surfing, water skiing and snow boarding, this water sport has started to catch the fancy of A-listers and "masa" alike. Easy to learn and at only P120 an hour, including facilities and equipment, what's not to like?



World Class: Arthur King

WHEN Reuben Buchanan took on the job to manage a wakeboard cable park in Camarines Sur, the athletic Australian also assumed the responsibility of promoting the sport to the locals. He went as far as tapping unusual talents for the emergent water sport.

"We found some breakdancers in CamSur who I thought would be good to groom as wakeboarding trainers and champions," recalls Buchanan. "Right now they are the best Filipino wakeboarders we have."

Wakeboarding—a combination of surfing, water skiing and snow boarding—recently found a sprawling home at the CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC) in Pili, Camarines Sur in the Bicol region.

Tasked to spread the word on this latest water sports craze is 30-year-old Buchanan, a wakeboarder for 11 years, who has returned to the Philippines with half-Filipina wife Sheril to manage the CWC operations.

"We have a lot more training to do with them, but they are really good and are enjoying their job," says Buchanan of the first batch of Filipino trainers and champions at CWC. "They're doing what other young wakeboarders from other countries would pay to do."

Already, the water sport has been drawing the local A-list. "A lot of people visit our wakeboard complex just to hang out and watch the wakeboarders do air tricks and stunts with their friends and family," notes Camarines Sur Governor Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., of the six-hectare site that includes a cable ski system, a beach volley venue, a campsite, a beach area and spa pavilions.

The hip sport already has celebrities like Aga Muhlach, Jericho Rosales and Angel Locsin buckling their vests and strapping their bindings. Other enthusiasts have made the water sport part of their lifestyle, among them athletic couple Arthur and Martha King who have been immersed in wakeboarding even before the CWC opened in 2006.

"I started six years ago," says King, ranked 11th in the world in the wakeboarding Masters category. "I first tried it in the (United) States with my friends. We rented a boat and the wakeboards. After that, I pursued the sport. Luckily there's a cable park in Batangas," he adds.

Continues the 32-year-old hotelier: "I like (wakeboarding) because it's a bodybuilding sport. You get stronger every time. You

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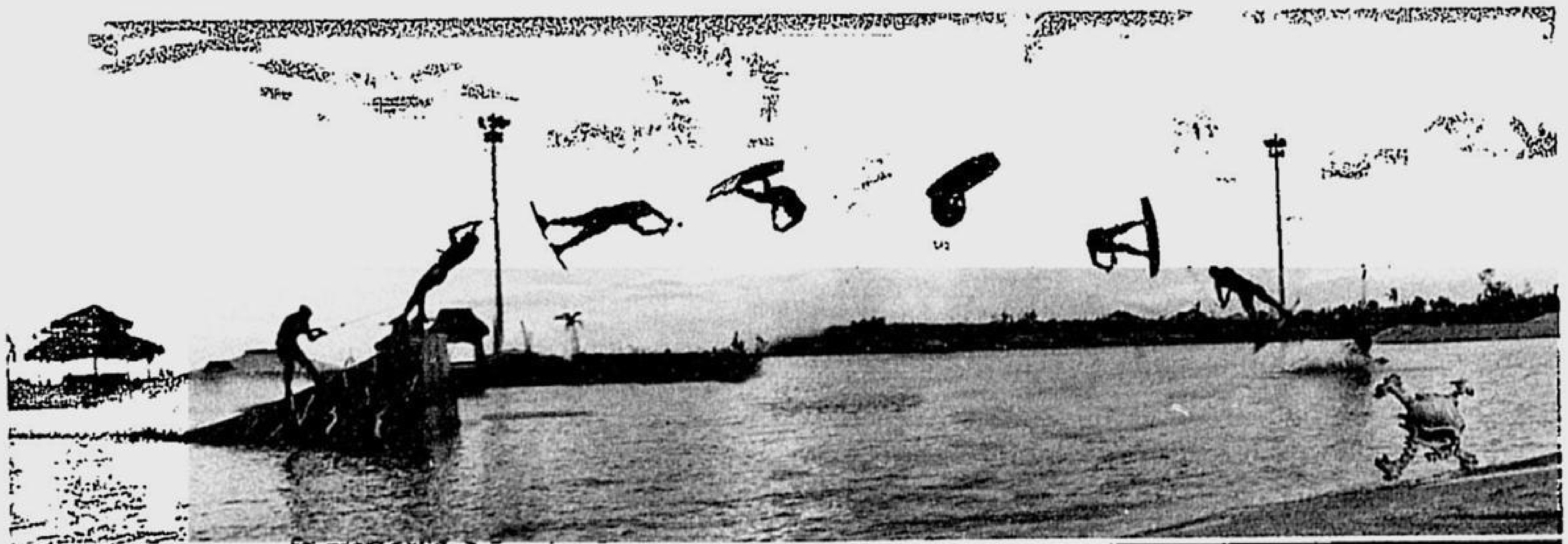
All Aboard

Arthur and Martha King share tips on how to get started in this rising water sport.



Go for it: Wakeboarding takes you higher

1. **Know the sport.** You may fancy yourself a daredevil, but it's always better to know what you're getting into. "Basically, wakeboarding is like surfing except you're pulled by a boat or a cable," says Arthur. "In cable parks, you can do more tricks. There's an obstacle course and ramps."

2. **Hook up with family and friends.** In wakeboarding, there's no teammate to lift you up on the course. As Martha says: "There's no training, so you're on your own." But it may be more fun learning the ropes with family and friends. "When I started wakeboarding four years ago, some friends are into the sport so they told me what to do although the operators of the cable park also teach you the basics."

3. **Warm up.** Like any sport, a

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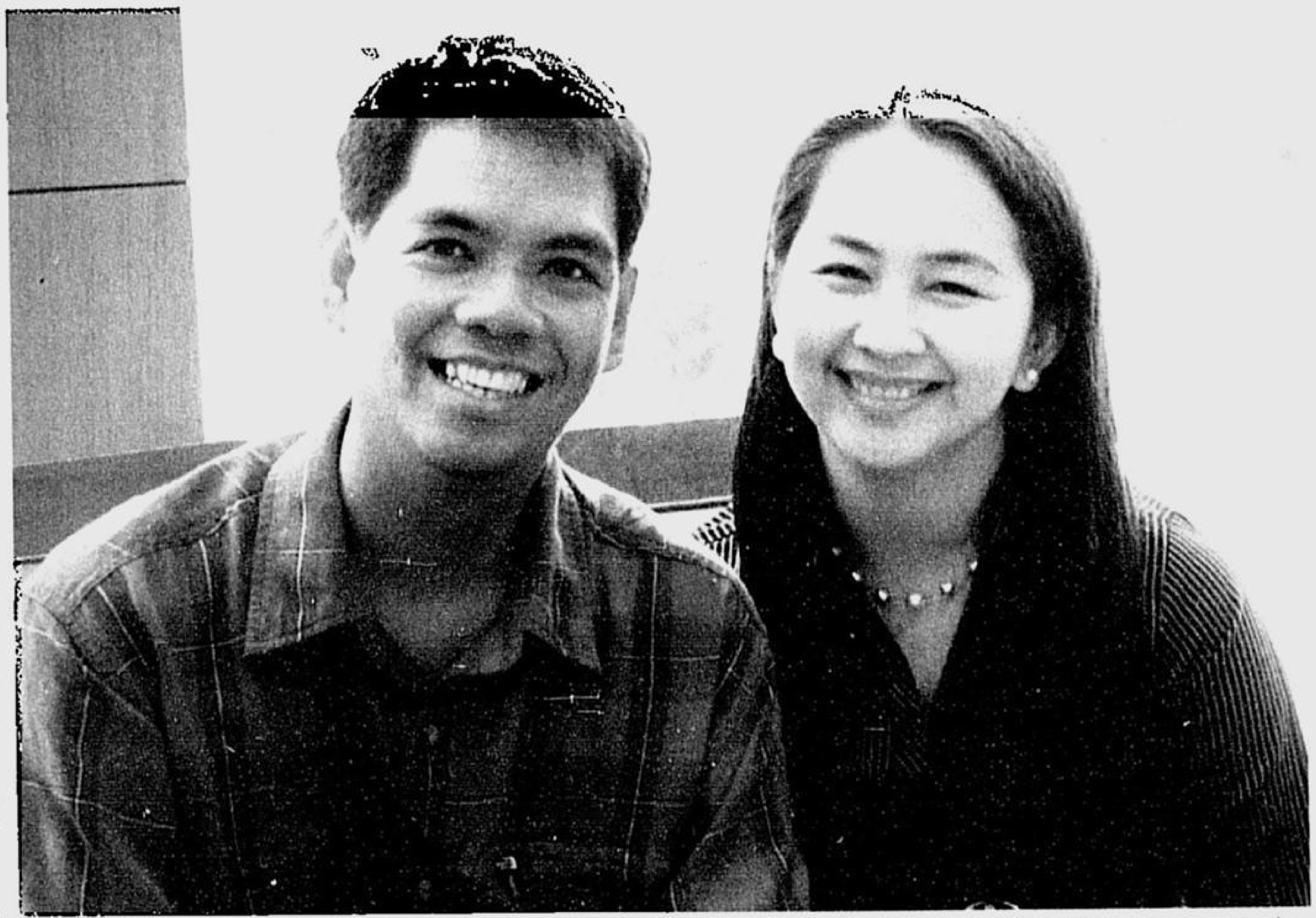
How to Feel on Top of the World

Regie Pablo reveals why mountain climbing can be a spiritual experience



(Top) Blissed out: Pablo with wife Melissa

(Right) The iceman cometh home: Pablo with tools of his trade

WHY do people risk life and limb climbing mountains? Because, like Mt. Everest, the mountains are there, and people see it as a challenge to be conquered in a perennial man-versus-nature bout. This, from Regie Pablo who scaled the world's highest mountain on May 17, a day after three Filipino women did.

Such an attitude, he adds, has become the downfall of many mountaineers. "It's like coming from a position of arrogance, when we should regard nature with awe and humility as part of God's creation. We are insignificant compared to them." The death of two members of his expedition only stresses how puny and frail people can be compared to the forces and elements of nature, notes this Globe Telecoms employee who became the seventh Pinoy to achieve the feat.

Pablo, 36, was the lone Filipino in the Asian Trekking International Expedition that organized the ascent on Mt. Everest in May this year. The group included 11 other climbers from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Japan and Czechoslovakia.

"When I saw Mt. Everest before I started the climb, I addressed it silently and humbly asked its permission," recalls Pablo. "I said, I have come in peace not to challenge you, but to enjoy your summit." Instead of a conquest of nature, he chose to see the experience as a spiritual quest, he adds, a humbling experience that made him realize his mortality and brought him closer to the Creator. And indeed, once he reached the summit through the North Side, Pablo left a rosary in thanksgiving and as a prayer for the safety of future climbers.

Pablo reached the summit exactly a year after Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to reach the Everest peak. Erwin "Pastor" Emata repeated Oracion's feat on May 18, while Romeo Garduce made it one hour after. On May 16 this year, Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino became the first Filipino women to summit Everest.

Asked why Filipinos made it when others far bigger and stronger had given up, Pablo shrugs: "I guess it's because we're used to trials and difficulties. *Sanay tayo sa hirap.*"

Pablo's passion for mountain climbing started when he began working for a mining company and was exposed to the mine sites in Benguet, Dipogon and Zambales. It was then that he saw the destruction of the country's mountains and vowed to do something about it, recalls this industrial engineering graduate.

Aside from Divine Guidance, Pablo credits Globe Telecoms -- which allowed him to go on extended leave with pay to pursue his dream -- and family support behind his success. Married just last December to fellow Globe Adventure Club member Melissa, he recalls a time on the mountain when he thought he'd never see her again. "I already wrote her a farewell letter and left it with one of the sherpas," he says of the scariest moment in his climb.

"No, he can't die on me," quips Melissa. "We still have plans to build a family." And that, definitely, is Pablo's next Everest. • **PAC**

Climb every mountain, but stay safe

By Regie Pablo

MOUNTAINEERING is a serious sport. Anyone who plans to indulge in this activity must understand that they'd be exposed to the forces of nature and that there are inherent risks involved. The following tips should ensure that their climb will be a safe and enjoyable experience:

1) **Join a reputable mountaineering organization.** The Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (MFPI) and its member clubs conduct regular Basic Mountaineering Courses (BMC). We cannot replace the value of experience. The only way to acquire this is by joining groups that have extensive knowledge, networks and high standards in climbing ethics gained from years of experience. If you're interested in joining MFPI, you can contact Mr. Mhar Melendres at 09175259798.

2) **Where to go?** For novices, it's always advisable to explore areas just a few hours from civilization, preferably within the range of two hours' travel time. In case of emergencies, search and rescue operations can easily be facilitated. Start with overnight hikes with manageable trail conditions.

As you gain experience, you can increase the level of difficulty or remoteness of the mountain you're climbing.

The internet provides a reliable source of information on where to go. But bear in mind that travel stories and itineraries posted on websites would not quite be the same as yours. Treat them only as references.

3) **What to buy?** Mountaineering gear and equipment can be pricey but it is advisable treat them as an investment. Newbies should avoid buying high-end equipment that tend to be too costly as it's not unusual for first timers to give up on their first encounter of the outdoors. As much as possible, borrow usable equipment from reliable sources. Backpacks, stoves, tents, cook sets and even shoes can be lent by a friend. Do not borrow climbing equipment like ropes and hardware (carabineers, pitons, etc), as they are safety equipment and are subject to wear and tear. If you are not sure where and how they have been used and handled, don't use them as they could cost you your life. There are some local outfits that rent out equipment but beprudent in selecting products that you would want to rent.

A lot of local and foreign brands offer quality products, among them Habagat, Sandugo, Conquer, Trek, Bombproof, Montanara, Camp-O, The North Face, Columbia, Coleman, etc. Some climbing gyms also sell limited outdoor products. You can also buy equipment online and from enterprising individuals who source outdoor apparel from export overruns or even the popular used-garments shops (read: *ukay-ukay*). If you're not too particular about the previous owners of these apparel, they can turn out to be a cheaper alternative.

Mt. Everest: Man versus nature

When climbing, bring only the equipment you would need. A few pounds off your carrying weight can spell the difference between an enjoyable weekend and a horrible experience.

4) **Climb safely.** Take note of the local weather forecast. Since our mountains are the tropical type, it is common to pass by river systems that tend to get swollen during heavy downpours, posing great danger to safety. Climbers may be exposed to hypothermia during very cold weather compounded by rain showers. Make sure you have jackets and dry clothes, properly encased in water-resistant packaging. Take along a first aid kit and personal medications including insect repellants. Ensure that you have radios or mobile phones for emergencies.

Leave your itinerary with someone who's not joining your trip so they can check your whereabouts anytime. In case of emergencies, this will guide them in organizing and mobilizing rescue operations. Keep a list of important numbers you might need in cases of emergency.

Never climb alone. A climbing party of three is the minimum, as large groups create a high impact on the mountain. Observe limits of acceptable change and be conscious of the carrying capacity of the mountain.

5) **Be physically prepared.** Mountaineering is a demanding activity. The whole safety of the climbing party may depend on the strength, or the weakness, of one member. Simple exercises like climbing stairs, riding stationary bikes or running are good workouts for those who plan to venture into the outdoors. Fitness centers and gyms also provide an atmosphere conducive to training. They have workout equipment and trainers who can provide helpful advice.

More importantly, maintain a healthy lifestyle. Observe good sleeping habits. Be conscious of your diet. Give up or minimize smoking.

6) **Practice responsible mountaineering** by adhering to the Leave No Trace Principles, simple guidelines which, when followed, ensure an enjoyable experience that has a low impact on the environment.

The LNT Principles are as follows:
1) Plan ahead and prepare.
2) Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3) Dispose of waste properly.
4) Leave what you find.
5) Minimize or don't build campfires at all
6) Respect wildlife.
7) Be considerate of other visitors.
8) Observe the mountaineers' credo: Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints, keep nothing but memories. Embrace this passionately.
9) And finally, think of the future. We are losing our forests at a rate so fast that the next generation may not be able to enjoy the view, the cool breeze and clear waters that have made our sport meaningful and fulfilling. Protect our mountains; plant a tree.•

Free-for-All

The best things in life are free. If you have the time, we have the juice.

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Walking tall: The FEU campus

Dylan Gozum

1. Old Manila Walks' Art Deco Tour

Time travel to the roaring '20s and explore Manila's rich Art Deco heritage. From the hallowed halls of the fabulous Far Eastern University campus to Malate's secret moderne interiors, it's all about the age of speed, jazz, boogie-woogie and the American colonial experiment in the Philippines as you join urban explorer extraordinaire Ivan Man Dy of Old Manila Walks.

Monthly. Log on to www.oldmanilawalks.com for schedules, or e-mail: oldmanilawalks@gmail.com for details.

2. Gantimpala Theater/ Concert at the Park's award-winning plays

Celebrate Gantimpala's 30th anniversary with its Pearl Theater Festival, featuring previous winners of the annual CCP Playwriting Contest. At the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, 7 p.m. "Bombita", written by Tony Perez, is scheduled on September 23. A black comedy on blind obedience among young rookies in the military. Directed by Soxie Topacio.

On September 30, watch Leoncio Deriada's "Taluktok," a coming-of-age tale about five graduating high school students and their climb to the peak of Mt. Apo. This is specially dedicated to Caloy Abrera, who performed in the original production as the retreat master. Directed by Gantimpala Theater Foundation's artistic director Tony Espejo.

For more information, log on to www.nationalparks.ph for schedules of similar free shows at Paco Park and Concert at the (Rizal) Park.

3. National Book Month at the Ortigas Foundation Library

Beef up your Filipiniana, history and current affairs titles through a Mini Book Fair on October 18, 19 and 20. On October 18, 6 pm, enrich your knowledge of Philippine Fiction in English with a lecture by Dr. Gemino H. Abad. On October 19, 6 p.m. join the UMPIL writers in "An Evening of Poems," a poetry reading session featuring Unyon ng mga Manunulat Sa Pilipinas poets Krip Yuson, Marne Kilates, Jose Wendell Capili, Rebecca Añonuevo, Fidel Rillo, Roberto Añonuevo, Michael Coroza, V.E Carmelo Nadera, Jr. and Abdon Balde, Jr.

It's the kids' turn on October 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. with "Ikwento Mo!" a storytelling session for kids aged 6 to 12 by Adarna House.

The Ortigas Foundation Library is located at the 2/F Ortigas Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

For details, please call 631-1231 loc 222, e-mail maticat@ortigas.com.ph or visit www.ortigasfoundationlibrary.com.ph

4. Retail therapy at the ANP's 22nd Trade Fair

Some 22 years after the price of Negros sugar hit rock bottom at the world market, the *señoras* and *hacienderas* are still at it— teaching the womenfolk of suddenly destitute *haciendas* how to make handicraft, pastries, baskets, pottery and assorted products that would sweeten life again.

From the handful of workers, there are now 80,000 subcontractors and community workers turning up the beautiful concepts of the 94 entrepreneurs who make up the Association of Negros Producers. Let their undaunted spirit inspire you as you browse through their offerings: food, fashion accessories, furniture and housewares, at the Rockwell Tent, Power Plant Mall in Makati, from October 3 to 8. The shopping's not free, but the surfeit of good feeling is.•

Free your mind: Concert at the Park

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Joan Bitagcol

The shy girl shines: Andi holding the F300

Good Girl Makes Good

So what's squeaky-clean commercial model, courtside reporter and full-time CommArts student Andi Manzano doing in the edgy, racy world of VJs? Reminding us of the good things still out there, that's what

FOR someone who wakes up at four in the morning, every morning, Andi Manzano looks incredibly fresh-faced and even younger than her 20 years as she works the soundboard on Magic 89.9 FM's morning show.

But then, Maria Andrea Krishna Martin Manzano belongs to a new breed: the modern multi-tasking multimedia girl.

Consider this: Every weekday morning from 6 to 9, she's Andi-9, the bubbly co-host of "Good Times with Mo," steered by veteran DJ Mo Twister (hence the 4 a.m. daily wake-up call).

Switch to a different medium and she's VJ Andi of MTV Philippines, certainly the youngest-looking of the current crop of six new VJs selected in a grueling reality TV-type VJ hunt.

Then totally out of left field, she's also the courtside reporter for the FEU team in this year's UAAP Season.

Hers is also a familiar face on TV and in print, being a sought-after commercial and image model, with several ads and magazine covers under her belt.
And to top it all, she's still in school, somehow managing to squeeze in the final semesters of her Communication Arts course in Miriam College into her packed schedule.

Is there anything this girl can't do?

"To be perfectly honest, I'm not used to it yet," she confesses. We are sitting on the floor of one of the radio station's booths after her show.

Scrubbed clean of any trace of make-up, dressed down in an Adidas tracksuit, the petite (5'3", 105 lbs.) Andi Manzano comes across as perfectly at home in herself and her life on the air, or on camera.

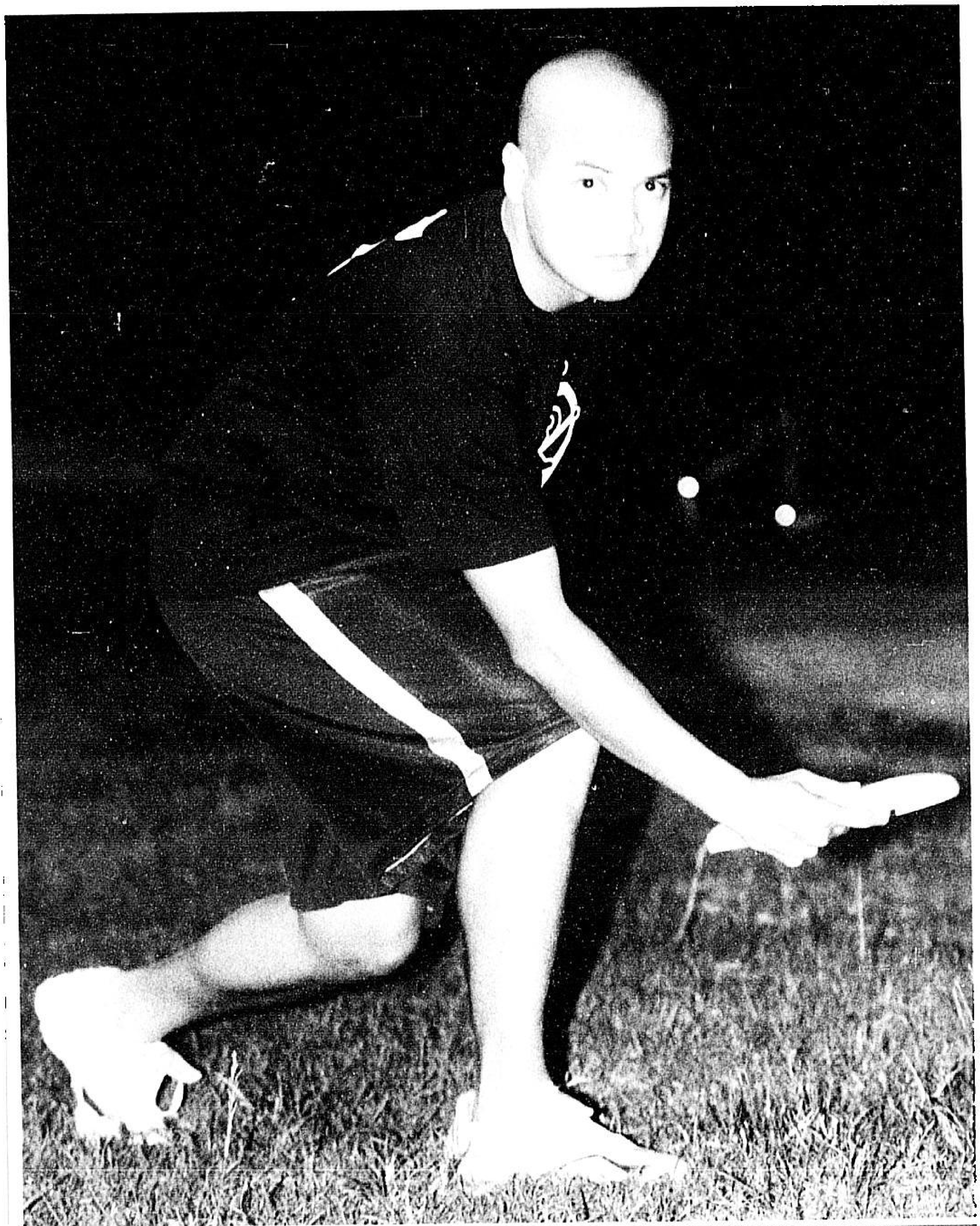
"I'm really new in the industry, but I can actually appreciate the *artistas* now because now I realize how much work they

(continued on page 13)

Disc Drive

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by Ryan Lim

Ultimate Frisbee is more than just a game of throw and catch, says F Francisco, who reckons that the game's fast-paced demands will soon have Pinoys flipping over it



Discman supreme: F Francisco

FREDERICK Francisco knew it immediately. The moment he gripped the smooth, plastic disc for the first time and hurled it through the air, he was hooked. Known to friends simply as "F," Francisco had accepted a friend's invitation to the Ultimate Frisbee beginner's night at the San Lorenzo Village park. It proved to be the ultimate discovery.

After all, just how fast, how demanding does a sport have to be to earn the qualifier "Ultimate"? Very fast and very demanding apparently, and that's why the sport has been properly dubbed simply as "Ultimate."

The 34-year-old Francisco, who is managing director of his family-owned credit and financing company, is by no means the prototypical athlete. He recalls being sickly as a kid. "I had asthma so the family doctor encouraged my parents to get me into sports." Actually, he got into a lot of sports: swimming, karate, tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, football, golf and badminton. Then Ultimate came spinning into his life.

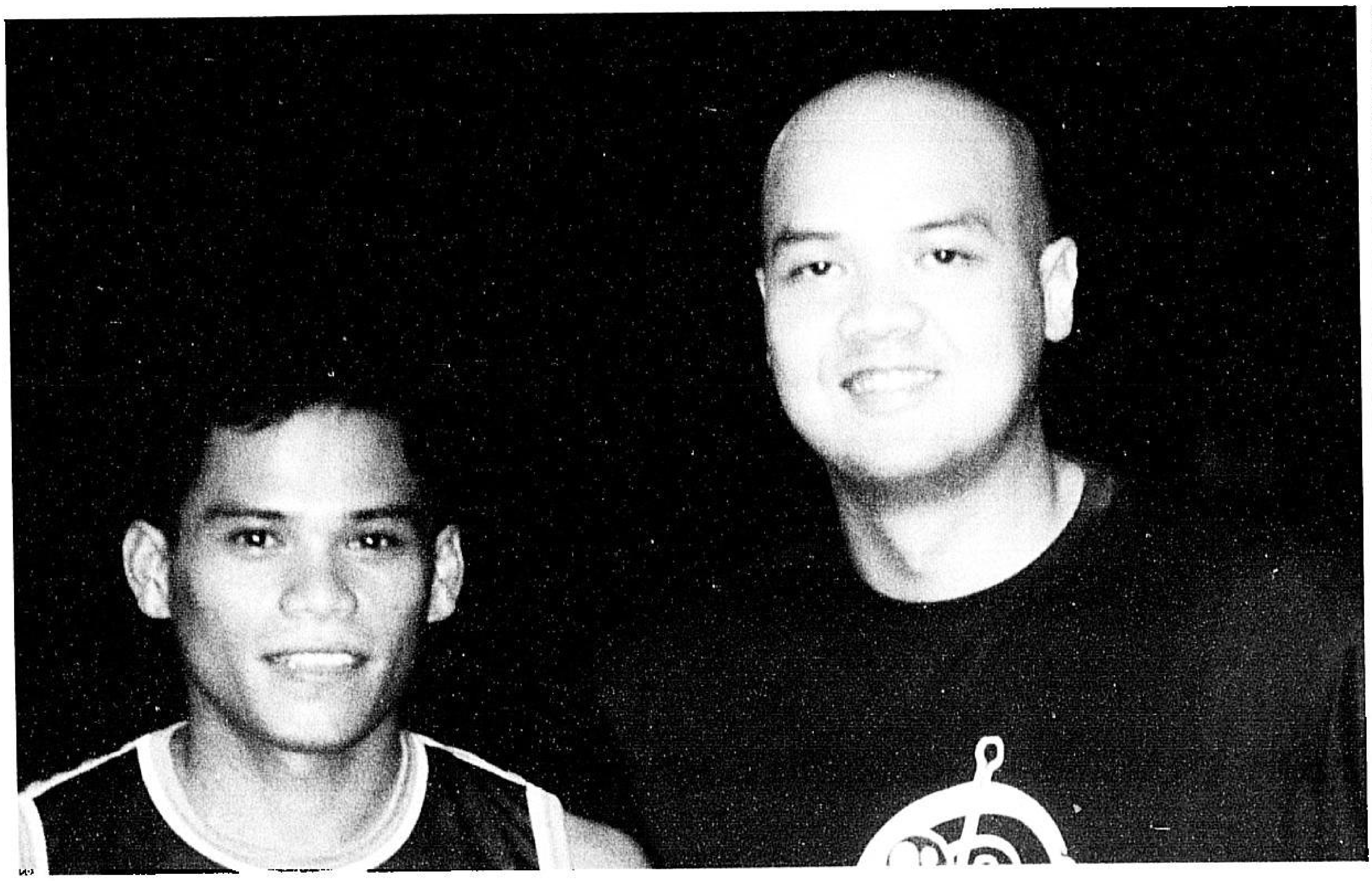
The sport clicked with him, and he thinks it will with others as well. "Filipinos will enjoy Ultimate Frisbee because it's fast-paced, dynamic and fun," he enthuses. "It's also a sport that you can play with everyone, including your friends, family, even your parents," he says. "It can be very competitive but also fun and wacky at the same time. It has something to offer everyone—from the serious athlete to the weekend warrior."

Francisco, who holds a political science degree from the University of the Philippines and a law degree from the Philippine Law School, would soon link up with the Philippine Ultimate Association, the sport's governing body in the Philippines. "In the past, Ultimate was played mainly by a group of expats and their local friends mainly to stay in shape and to socialize," explains this PUA president. "They started inviting more people to join the pick up games until they had enough to start their own league."

Indeed, on any given weekend, one can witness able-bodied Pinoys leaping into the air, awaiting the perfectly thrown disc. A diverse following is engaged in the sport, Francisco notes, with Filipino players ranging in age from 12 to 50. "We have just about everyone—from former national and professional athletes to people who have no prior sporting experience," he says.

Invented by a group of New Jersey teenagers in 1968, Ultimate is a non-contact sport built around the idea of throwing and catching what is properly called a "flying disc." The discs are popularly known as Frisbees, but "Frisbee" is actually a trademark of the product (now owned by Mattel) that began life in 1871 as pie tins from the Connecticut-based Frisbie Pie Company.

Now a popular game worldwide, the sport has its own dynamic and devotees. Ultimate has been gaining a mainstream following in the last few years, with the PUA staging tournaments as well as encouraging the establishment of school



Ultimate Warriors: Francisco with Panoy delos Santos (left), the best Pinoy player

clubs. Over 400 players in Metro Manila participate in leagues under the PUA. "We also have growing Ultimate communities in Boracay, Davao, Iloilo, Iligan, Cebu, Dumaguete and Laguna, which we hope to incorporate into the PUA's official membership before the year ends," he adds. The crown jewel of the local scene is the yearly Philippine Ultimate Club Championships, while leagues and tournaments are staged year-round.

Francisco has big plans for the years ahead. Aside from spreading Ultimate nationwide, he wants to integrate Ultimate into the schools' Physical Education curriculum. "We've also been able to establish a national youth training program for players 24 years and under," he says, adding that his goal is "to strengthen the foundation of Ultimate in the country to ensure that the sport doesn't end up as just a fad, but for it to be considered someday as a full-fledged competitive sport."

That competitive side is honed through endless practice. Most clubs hold practices once to thrice a week, though Francisco notes that if you really want to get serious about Ultimate, practicing five times a week will build the proper stamina. The PUA stages two major international tournaments every year: the Manila Spirits Asian Ultimate Tournament in November and the Boracay Open Asian Beach Ultimate Championships in the summer.

All that makes sense because Francisco believes that the possibilities for Ultimate in the Philippines are endless, because Filipinos are perfectly suited to play the sport. "It plays to the strengths of the Filipino athlete, which is grit, speed and athleticism. Unlike basketball where height is might, in Ultimate, a player's height may be negated if he's slow." He points out that Ultimate is played on a field with dimensions of 120 x 40 yards (110 x 37 meters). "So getting quickly from one end of the field to another is more important than taking up space." Francisco names Panoy delos Santos among the Philippines' best players today. "He stands just a shade over five feet but he's respected in the Asian Ultimate circuit for his blazing speed and daredevil catches."

For his part, he may be deeply devoted to Ultimate, but that's not the only discipline on his slate. "I started boxing to help me get into better shape and I just very recently played my first flag football game," the 5'8", 170-lb Francisco shares. "If and when I can't run anymore, I'll probably spend most of my time on the golf course." There's a bit of surfing here and there.

Away from the playing fields, he savors watching movies with his girlfriend and buddies. Long-term, Francisco longs to return to coaching basketball. "I used to coach a high school team before, but I quit when I went back to law school," he says. "I really love coaching kids, because once you win their respect, they'll really do everything you say, both on and off the court. Then, you can help mold them the right way, not just as players, but as people."

The disc drive comes full circle then, because he knows exactly what to do to make his beloved sport even more popular. "We want to be able to show everyone that Ultimate is not just a game of throw-and-catch or is a sport for dogs," vows Francisco. "We believe this is a beautiful sport and we want others to see and experience it for themselves."•

Startup Disc

FOR those who want to try out Ultimate Frisbee, Philippine Ultimate Association president Frederick Francisco suggests that they attend the Beginners' Nights, held every Wednesday at the Meralco Fitness Center, Meralco Compound, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

"All they have to do is show up, bring a white and dark shirt, wear comfortable playing clothes, shoes with good traction for grass or turf (soccer cleats, outdoor shoes...), and P100 for the field fee." Additionally, the PUA recommends a visit to their website (www.philippineultimate.org) where you can find links to helpful information like the rules of the game.• RSDV

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

5				7				6
		3				7		
	7	8				5	9	
			2		6			
9				8				1
			7		4			
	1	7				2	3	
		2				4		
8				5				7

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ Answers in PDI, Sept. 24 issue

Answer to previous puzzle
PDI, Sept.22

8	2	5	6	9	7	1	3	4
3	9	1	4	8	5	2	6	7
7	4	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
6	3	9	1	2	8	4	7	5
5	8	7	9	4	6	3	1	2
4	1	2	7	5	3	9	8	6
1	6	4	3	7	2	5	9	8
2	5	3	8	6	9	7	4	1
9	7	8	5	1	4	6	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

sim@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher: Leica R. Carpo
Executive Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
Product Manager: Chito San Mateo

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Tooting his own horn (from page 2)

The beat of a different drummer

for me," he said. "A man of few words is at less risk of saying the wrong things that would hurt his organization. As they say: less talk, less mistakes."

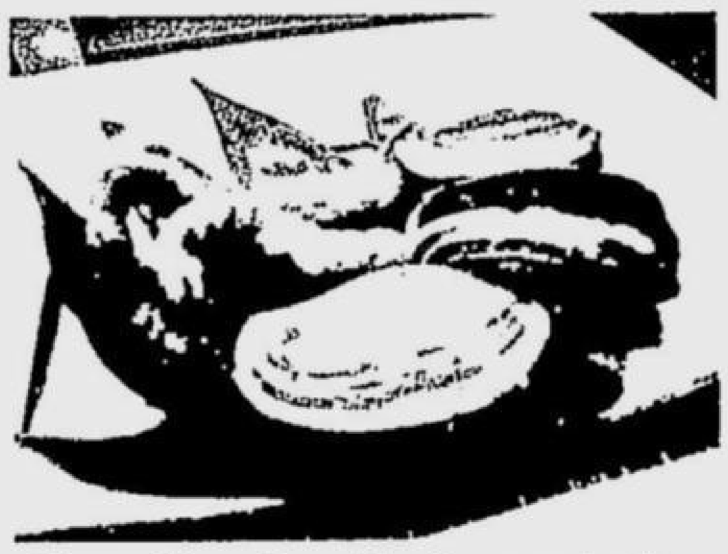
Dealing with the media, he notes, is a two-way street. "They get their stories from the information that I give them, and I learn from the questions and the feedback that they give me."

The job can be stressful, but fortunately music provides a balm. His favorite songs on the trumpet, he confides, are "The Nearness of You," "What a Wonderful World," "Moon River" and gospel hymns, while he bangs out "Celebration" or any Beatles song on the drums.

But he doesn't see himself playing professionally in the future, he demurs. "These hobbies make me healthy in mind, body and spirit," he says. "But I am not about to give up my day job."

For now, at least, the PNP's gain seems to be the music industry's loss.•

Living up... (from page 4)



Magnificent mollusk: geoduck clam sashimi

"sky's the *langit*" price.

To make up for the disappointment, I ordered a sure winner: Wagyu Ohmi Shabu Shabu. The menu proudly claims that Tsukiji serves this "official beef of the Japanese Imperial household ... exclusively" since it opened in 1989. I like that at this restaurant, Wagyu is treated delicately, cut into thin strips and transformed from pink to brown before your eyes. You can actually inspect the marbling before you dunk it into the boiling water at the center of your table. And on this point, Tsukiji does not fail. Chef J Gamboa knows his wagyu.

This beef item, like the Snake River Farm steaks they also offer on the menu, falls within the P2,000 to P3,500 price range . But unlike the tempura, serious meat eaters would know it is very much worth its meat. Possibly because it is another dish that capitalizes on the freshness and quality standards that distinguish Tsukiji. The commitment to freshness remains evident in their Seasonal Specials Menu, which makes for a unique sashimi experience of bluefin tuna, ark shell, whelk clam, and other seasonal finds that range from P650 to P1,800.

If you feel, however, that this is not the season to be spending, don't worry. Understanding costs as much as cuisine, Mr. Gamboa has introduced lunch and weekend sets that include an appetizer, a soup, a salad and meat or fish for just P400 to P800. And the California Maki, with six generous rolls, is only P290. Have that and a beef soba (P385) and you're good.

Personally, I still prefer the seasonal finds. You can get a good maki almost anywhere, but unique creatures of the sea are an indulgence only Tsukiji can offer, give or take a rare couple of other Japanese restos in the metropolis. After all, the biggest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world is the Tsukiji Fish Market. The restaurant must live up to its name. And happily, it does.•

Tsukiji. 3/F Milkyway Building, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas.
8434285 / 8122913. No reservations required.
Casual/Business Casual.
Major credit cards accepted.
Elevator provides wheelchair access.

Good Girl Makes Good (from page 9)

put in," she says. "It's hard to keep up with work and school, but at the same time it can be fun. I just don't have time now for my family and friends. I'm actually at the point where I'm trying to manage my time."

But while she goes to school only two days a week, and shoots for MTV another two or three days, the hectic round of press interviews, pictorials, hosting gigs that are part and parcel of being a DJ/VJ/reporter/model sometimes finds her day ending at 1 a.m., leaving her just three hours of precious sleep before she has to get up and do it all over again.

Not that she's complaining. Things in her life now are exactly where she dreamed they would be.

"It's so funny because I'm really a shy girl," she says. "Ever since I was young, I loved singing and dancing by myself in front of the mirror. But I could never really do it in front of an audience. I think this is my chance now to just share with everyone what I've got. But there's still a part of me that's still not used to it—*nahihiya* pa rin (still embarrassed). I'm trying to adjust because I'm still camera-conscious. With MTV and courtside reporting, I'm still trying to get used to the camera."

There can be no doubt, however, that the camera loves her. Her natural stage presence and relaxed demeanor helped her cinch her spot on the MTV VJ hunt.

"It was always a secret dream of mine," she admits. "I watched a lot of MTV. It's so funny because I used to practice being a VJ in front of the mirror when I was young—but I honestly never expected to win. I thought: if I win, good, if I lose, OK *lang*, I'm just here to have fun. I didn't want to play a role that was 'VJ-ish.' I was like, 'This is my personality, this is what I can offer you guys.' I'll just be myself and show them who I am. And if they don't like me, fine."

Built around music: Andi and the X830

This strategy, if strategy it was, worked: she landed in the magic six. In spite of her squeaky-clean, girl-you'd-like-to-take-home-to-mom persona—or maybe because of it, music television already having a surfeit of smart-alecky ironic types—she stands out in the VJ line-up.

"In the Magic team, she's the moral girl," concurs Mo Twister. "She's conservative, she's the girl every parent would dream of, and we need that on the show because we can be edgy and racy, and Andi reminds us that there are still good things out there."

This doesn't exactly fit in with the popular image of the VJ as party girl; but Mo begs to differ. "Donita (Rose) was very Christian when she was on MTV, and she made it look good. She showed that you can have a positive image and still be a good VJ."

At the mention of Donita, Andi brightens noticeably.

"If there's one person I want to be like, it would be Donita. We believe in the same things," she says. "I don't think you have to compromise anything to please MTV, or be what people think a VJ should be, because sometimes you have to set the standard."

Being a radio jock and an MTV VJ means that music is pretty much a large part of her life now. "I used to be part of a dance troupe in Miriam, so I used to listen to R & B and hip-hop. But when I joined the radio station I became open to more types of music. Like right now, I'm more into alternative music."

In keeping up with the latest pop music trends, Samsung has released several music phone models: the Ultra Music F300, the E740, and the X830.The F300 has proven to be perfect for Andi.

"My life now is built around music, so throughout the day I use the Samsung SGH F300. It's so useful for me." Andi, who admits to being something of a techie, says she also doesn't want to blow her budget on the latest gadget. "The Samsung works for me because it's a phone and an MP3 player, and it's small. I can carry it in my bag. That's important for a girl."

What's next for Andi Manzano? She's almost afraid to ask.

"Everything in my life now is falling into place where I want it to be," she says. "I can't ask for anything more. And it's so exciting for me right now because I don't know what's going to happen next week." •

All Aboard (from page 5)

good warm up is important. Arthur advises: "When you ride, you're usually excited. But you have to discipline yourself. Before you ride, do some stretching. Otherwise, you'll get injured a lot faster."

4. **Rent first.** There's no need to splurge on equipment right away. Most wakeboard facilities like the CamSur Watersports Complex rent out the equipment including safety gears like the life vest and helmet. "If you're just trying it, better to rent. When you're good at it already, then you can buy your own," Arthur and Martha advise.

5. **Go for water.** Don't overestimate your abilities. Get the feel of wakeboarding on water before trying the ramps and other stunts. "Start with water first," suggests Martha. "If you're not athletic, it may take some time to learn the sport. You may just fall and fall, or if you get to stand up, it will just be for a short time. The next day, expect your whole body to feel sore."

6. **Have fun.** As many attest, wakeboarding is both challenging and fun. So throw your inhibitions to the wind! "Some women are scared to get bruises. Some just don't want to get dark," notes Martha. And don't worry if you fall often. Even experts tumble. "In competitions, you're allowed to fall twice," says Arthur.•

Jasmine W. Payo

Waking up to Wakeboarding (from page 5)

Martha King: Know your limits

always learn new tricks. It's progressive. It's not as boring compared to, I don't know, maybe golf? You always want to push yourself to be better to do more extreme tricks."

Villafuerte, president of the Philippine Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, also shares this sport's emotional highs: "Wakeboarding is really enjoyable and quite addicting. Imagine the feeling of being able to float on water. It's really great to be able to stand on your board, go around the lake, do some basic tricks and moves."

He adds, "It's a very relaxing sport and at the same time, a good form of exercise since your whole body is involved. You notice this with wakeboarders—most of them are physically fit."

Buchanan cites another reason to test the wakeboarding waters. "It's very easy, easier than surfing or skateboarding. All you need to do is listen to your trainers and you'll be able to wakeboard on your feet in no time," notes this father of three-year-old Takiah who may be among the youngest wakeboarder in the world.

"You can start with kneeboarding and that's probably even easier than riding a bike. Some people will have five to 10 go's before they're able to stand up, but once they do, they get addicted to it."

A crash course is possible, says King, the first local champion in the Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals last year. "Everything you need to learn about wakeboarding, you learn CamSur Park. There are things you develop when you keep on riding."

Notes Villafuerte: "The basic thing you have to have is a sense of balance, which everybody can easily develop. That's why anybody can wakeboard." He adds: "Of course, like in any sport, you have to have the will to learn it. At least 95 percent of the people who try to learn in the CamSur wakeboard park actually manage to stand up. The remaining five percent are those who easily gave up after a few attempts."

Why, says Villafuerte, a 76-year-old Filipina even tried the sport. "[She was] able to stand up and go around the lake on her first attempt," he recounts. "This only shows that wakeboarding is for everybody, boys and girls, young and old. All they have to do is be bold enough to try it."

Although the sport is deemed safe since riders wear protective gear like helmets and vests, Martha King however cautions newbies to know their limits in trying the flips, turns and other stunts that are part of the sport.

"There's no training, so you're on your own," she says. "I've torn my ACL (anterior cruciate ligament). I wasn't good in wakeboarding at that time and I tried the ramp already. I fell really bad and twisted my knee."

But there's really nothing to fear if riders abide by the safety precautions, she adds.

"When you fall, you can swim back to shore. There are those who fall and panic, but there are lifeguards."

Says Buchanan: "If you fall, you don't fall on concrete so it doesn't hurt as much. Once you hit the water, it'll probably hurt for a few seconds and then you can go back and try again."

The expenses, surprisingly, won't hurt the pocket either. "We definitely made wakeboarding a mass-based sport. It only costs P120 to ride in CamSur," says Villafuerte. "The price includes the basic equipment and free training. It would cost you at least US$ 25 per hour to ride abroad. We made it very affordable that's why it's getting so popular."

Buchanan agrees: "The place, the facilities and wakeboarding fees are ridiculously affordable! It's so affordable, people from other countries stay here for months."

Yet serious wakeboarders like the King couple have invested on their own equipment that cost from P10,000-P15,000. Arthur King, in fact, is hoping to crash in the top 10 world rankings in a few years.

"Filipinos can definitely excel in it," says Villafuerte. "Last year we had our first Philippine cable wakeboard nationals and 76 people participated, a very good turnout for a first ever national competition. This year, we will be having our second nationals (Oct. 26-28) and are expecting double the number from last year. With this enthusiasm and rapid growth of the sport in the Philippines, sooner or later we will have wakeboard world champions who are Pinoys."•

Figure It Out

P600 – Whole-day rate for wakeboarding at the CamSur Watersports Complex in Camarines Sur; inclusive of wakeboard use and training

140 kms – Estimated distance between Manila and Anilao, Batangas, a popular diving spot

24 – Estimated number of diving sites between Anilao and Maricaban Island in Batangas

25 – Estimated number of shipwreck dive sites in the Philippines

P9,200 to P12,000 – Cost range per person of dive packages offered by the Department of Tourism; includes accommodation for three days and two nights, boat dives, meals and roundtrip transfers; covers Puerto Galera in Mindoro, Apo Island in Negros, Malapascua Island in Cebu and Coron in Palawan.

2 meters – height of a standard goalpost used in futsal (indoor soccer)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Lakbay Pilipinas website, Department of Tourism Official website, FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game 2006

Samsung phones: think style, efficiency - and music

(Top) Fe Varilla Samsung Mobile Group head
(Left) Samsung F300
(Below)Fitness First: Samsung music tour stop

MUSIC has always been the best way to reach out to a generation. Think rock and roll in the '50s; disco in the '70s, punk in the '80s, grunge in the '90s and hip-hop in the new millennium.

No wonder Samsung has put music at the center of its latest phone models, all of them MP3-enabled and powered by the Bang & Olufsen ICEpower Amp. Aside from being stylish and super slim (1.4"), the clear graphic display explains why Samsung is the world's leader in semiconductor chips and LCD screens, and the supplier of choice of these components to its mobile phone rivals. No wonder it is currently ranked third worldwide and second in the Philippines.

Samsung has extended the F300's battery life with a bundled leather case that prolongs battery life for up to four days at P20,000, it's a MP3 player and phone package that's hard to resist.

Focused on gaining a bigger market share, Samsung continues its non-stop promotional tour from Manila to Davao. That's part of playing "catch-up" in a billion-peso industry which, for Fe Varilla, Samsung Mobile Group head, is literally a song. Taking time off from her hectic schedule that involves orchestrating Samsung's fashion shows, mall events and music tours, Varilla shares her excitement about Samsung's latest marketing campaign:

SIM: What makes Andi Manzano your ideal spokesperson?
Varilla: Andi is a fresh face in the industry, being the newly-chosen MTV VJ. Like her, our music phones exude freshness, especially the breakthrough design of our dual-faced gadget, the F300.

SIM: Can you describe Samsung s target market?
Varilla: It's mostly A, B and C. When we started, we only catered to consumers whose preference was upscale and premium. This year, with our thrust to get a greater market share, we started catering to the needs of the youth, the yuppies and middle-income families.

SIM: How does the Philippine market compare to other countries in terms of mobile phone usage?
Varilla: The Philippines is mostly an SMS-user country, since it remains the most cost efficient means to communicate.

SIM: Is the idea of music-as-platform a global direction or just limited to the Philippines?
Varilla: The music platform was part of our global direction, but of course custom-fitted to suit the Philippine market.

SIM: What makes Samsung different from its competitors?
Varilla: We have utmost regard for the aesthetics of our phones without sacrificing their features and efficiency. Trend-wise, we can say we are ahead of competitors. We have the nicest slider phones, the thinnest and most stylish phones and the dual-face phones.

SIM: What is Samsung s best selling mobile phone in the Philippines?

Welcome to Fitness Fi
starts

Varilla: The E250 and our flagship phones from last year and this year, the D900 and U600, respectively.

SIM: Where does Samsung stand in the form versus function debate?
Varilla: Samsung's strength lies in its capability to create fashionable and stylish products without sacrificing function. Form and function come hand in hand to create hit models.

ERRATUM:

In the Sept. 16 issue of **SIM**, there was a mix-up in the opening of Italianni's Trinoma and Bonifacio High Street outlets. The High Street branch was opened on Sept. 14, while Italianni's Trinoma is still in the works. **SIM** regrets the error.

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